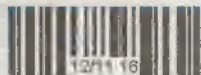


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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

By Mark Stavroulakis

Charley Villani's Adelaide City side has issued a stern warning to all other National League clubs: beware of the black and white army.

The Force handed South Melbourne a hiding in Round 8 after trouncing their interstate rivals four-nil at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Having last beaten South four years ago in the National League, the Force were due for a win and it came in fine fashion thanks to goals from Scott Tunbridge, Claudio Pelosi, Shane Smeltz and an unfortunate own goal from Mehmet Durakovic.

Played in the scorching Adelaide heat, Danny Wright's men were forced to play the majority of the match with ten-men after ace striker Michael Baird was given his marching orders for stomping on Force veteran Aurelio Vidmar.

From then on it was one-way traffic for Adelaide with the win pushing them to third position on the table while for South, it was a reality check for the side who not long ago had scalped both Olympic and the Glory.

The name Olympic Sharks has once again risen to the top of the National League ladder after a hard fought one-nil home win against a tricky Sydney United outfit.

After their shocking six-four loss to South Melbourne a few weeks back, Garry Phillips' men produced the goods in the dying stages of the match to give last year's champions the precious three points.

A goal from midfield whiz Andy Packer, his fourth of the season in the 92nd minute was enough to separate

both sides, even though Sydney United were left with nine-men towards the end of the match.

United's Solomon Islands striker Commins Menapi and import Slavomir Lukac were both red-carded by Kiwi referee Derek Rugg, who after the match was confronted by United players who were upset with some of the decisions that went against the side.



Action at its best — South custodian Dean Anastasiadis shown being hounded by Force stars Michael Valkanis and Claudio Pelosi in the penalty box.

An infuriated Branko Culina stated that "We had Rugg in Auckland when we played the Kingz because Soccer Australia said it would save money and then they fly him here for this game, so where's the logic".

The loss moved Sydney United out of the six and into eighth spot.

The Marconi Stallions continued their revival towards a hopeful top six finish after defeating the Football Kingz two-one at home last Friday night.

Again one man grabbed the spotlight

for the Stallions and it was newly signed striker Joe Spiteri as the former Socceroo notched up yet another double to gift Marconi their first home win of the season.

The 'Spitfire' now stands at four goals in two matches, a statistic Stallions coach Raul Blanco would certainly be proud of.

While on the subject of first home

It was a bad night for Kosmina's Strikers who now sit alone in bottom spot with four points.

Newcastle United continued their poor away form this season after succumbing to a two-nil loss to a determined Melbourne Knights side.

Goals from exciting young striker Anthony Pelikan and a debut goal from Croatian import Leon Buhic put 'Stabba' Marth's squad in fifth position, a spot not many people banked on before the start of the competition.

After being sidelined for several weeks with a broken foot, Buhic was the star of the match not only scoring a goal but also turned provider for Pelikan's first in the third minute of the match.

The Knights remain the only side not to have lost a game in the National League so far this season.

Newcastle coach Ian Crook will be hoping to improve on their poor away form when they take on Parramatta Power in their next away game in Round 10.

Finally, Ron Corry's Wollongong Wolves side broke into the top six once more after defeating the Northern Spirit two-one at WIN Stadium last Sunday afternoon.

Sean Babic was first to score for the Wolves until the Spirit pulled one back through John Hutchinson. The Wolves however had their sights set on a vital home victory and their winning goal came thanks to a strike from Wolves stalwart Stuart Young.

Records were broken for the South Coast club that night as the squad posted its first home win of the season while also scoring their first two goals on home soil.

Perth Glory played out the bye.

VALE

Peter Russell

4.11.2002. R.I.P.

The Australian Soccer fraternity was suddenly saddened last week by the alarming news of the passing away of former National Soccer League General Manager Mr Peter Russell.

Having long suffered from ill health, Peter had recently been admitted to the St Vincents Private Hospital in Sydney.

However last Monday, Peter was finally released to go home.

Much later that same day, our beloved Peter suddenly passed away, aged 65, having suffered a massive heart attack.

For the many that knew Peter, he was a well-respected figure amongst the Australian Soccer fraternity.

Peter Russell was born and bred in Scotland. He later drifted down to England and represented the Chelsea Schoolboys team.

In 1961 he married his childhood sweetheart Kathryn and three years later the young couple migrated to Australia. Peter soon established himself as a player of note in the NSW State League.

Always a sports loving person, Peter Russell also shared a passion for Golf, Cricket, Tennis as well as his music with his choice singer being the great and Late Buddy Holly, especially singing, 'Raining In My Heart'.

What many of Peter's friends never knew, was that he became an accomplished wicket-keeper as a Cricketer with the Eastern Suburbs Club.

The Russells' 41 year old marriage produced two extremely fine sons in Alistair and David.

By 1966 as a strapping 29 year old, Peter Russell attended College and graduated into the NSW Police force.

In a relatively short period of time, the proud former Scot had worked his way into the Detectives' division to join the then elite and crack squad, the C.I.B. (Criminal Investigation Bureau).

Towards the late 70s Peter Russell's health slowly started to wane with some minor health and fitness problems.

Still possessed with a powerful passion for Soccer, in 1979 Peter



The Late Peter Russell

resigned from the Detective Division and successfully applied to be automatically installed as fulltime Soccer Secretary of the all-conquering Hakoah Club, later renamed

Sydney City. It was here where he first came into contact with another proud former Scot, former Australian World Cup coach, Eddie Thomson.

In October that very same year, the multi-million dollar and star-studded New York Cosmos Soccer team spearheaded by two legendary World Cup captains, the fabulous Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany and the creative Carlos Alberto, Brazil, arrived in Australia for an exhibition match against Australia at the Sydney Showground.

(Continued page 4)

IS IT TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE?

By Daniel Kuziow

An ultimatum for reform has been delivered to the 13 competing NSL clubs by Chairman Remo Nogarotto only days after the Professional Footballers Association said they were willing to accept 12 months without a national competition.

The mandate has been given a week before the scheduled Sydney meeting between the national league clubs where they will be told to come up with tangible positives for fans and sponsors.

"There's no doubt about it, this meeting has to deliver a considered and worthwhile plan that will serve the best interests of the game," Nogarotto told The Australian.

"There has been too much talk and we are simply running out of time."

Four models for reform will be put forward by Nogarotto of which details are not yet available, while the PFA will also present a series of initiatives designed to rectify the current NSL.

Under the PFA model, the current 13 team model of 36 preliminary games would be reduced to a 10 team competition, who would play each other four times. Funding would be generated from a number of sources, namely the club owners who would have to pay a \$1.5million licence fee for 75 percent of the competition rights, with the remaining 25 percent of the league being sold to a media partner.

PFA chairman Brendan Schwab said such a model could not possibly be introduced for next year's competition,

rather Schwab said if the NSL didn't survive in its present format next season, the players believed it would be better to have 12 months without a national competition rather than rush in a new league just to plug the gap.

He told AAP: "The ongoing viability of the national league is a separate issue and we shouldn't allow that problem to compromise our ability to form a new league."

"The players say if we need to pay a price, then so be it, and the players should be congratulated for that."

"I don't think we'd be happy (if there was no national league for 12 months), but we're prepared to pay that price to ensure this once in a lifetime opportunity to achieve fundamental reform goes ahead."

"What we'd like to see is every

stakeholder in the game take a similar stand."

Yet these plans have been slammed by the game's hierarchy with one of its members confirming: "First, the PFA spends \$300,000 of players' money on a survey that comes up with a solution to get rid of three teams and 50 to 60 of their members," one club official said.

"Now the PFA would be happy to see the league put on hold for 12 months and deprive their members of work. It just doesn't make sense."

Whatever the case, such NSL reform is necessary. If there is an immediate change for the 2003/2004 season or a 12-month break until the 2004/2005 season the game must be renewed so that it will succeed in the marketplace.

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AUSSIES ABROAD

BY DANIEL KUZIW

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Blackburn defender
Lucas Neill believes
Rovers are still on
course for a top-six
Premiership finish if they can
tighten up their defence.



Lucas Neill: Confident
Blackburn will finish well up
the Premiership table.

The 0-0 draw with Aston Villa
was something of a comedown
after victory at Arsenal and the
humbling of Newcastle but Neill
reckons Blackburn have the
squad to do well.

He said: "There's no reason
whatsoever why we can't finish
in the top six."

"Everyone seems to be beat-
ing everybody else at the
moment and, with the players
we've got, if we can keep some
more clean sheets and keep the
defensive side of things tight
then we've got a great chance."

"I've definitely sensed a
change in the side. It was first
evident against Newcastle
because no one expected us to
beat them in the way we did."

"Then to go to a place like
Arsenal and get something when
literally everyone had written us
off was fantastic and that just
showed the true character of this
team."

Neill admitted the exertions of
the UEFA Cup game at Celtic
last week had taken it out of the

players.
He told the Lancashire
Evening Telegraph: "Against
Villa it was a very below-par per-
formance."

"Myself and one or two others
were simply not at the races.
Collectively it was always going
to be hard to repeat the perfor-
mance of the other night. We just
needed a spark but it never
came."

Rangers playmaker
Ronald de Boer has
praised teammate and
Aussie International Craig
Moore.

The Dutchman
www.gersnet.com: "I think Craig
is a fine player and one who has
a lot more to offer even than he
has shown us so far." www.ger-
net.com

"This is his first real run in the
team for a couple of years after a
spell when he was out through
his injuries."

"He now has match fitness and
has slotted into the side really
well."

"I think Craig can become
even better and can reach a very
good standard, I really like him."

"He can be very tough when
he has to be but he is not a crazy
player, he does not get rushes of
blood to the head. He is a think-



Craig Moore: Receiving
the plaudits of Ronald de
Boer.

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not to take risks when the pres-
sure is on. If there is a straight-
forward way of dealing with a
situation then that is how he will
deal with it."

Two of Leeds' Aussie con-
nection have been
loaned out by the club as
a way of gaining some first
team experience.

Danny Milosevic has joined
Plymouth on a month's loan,
while Shane Cansdell Sherriff
has joined Rochdale.

Meanwhile in a follow up
story to one which appeared last



Danny Milosevic: Has
moved to Plymouth on loan
from Leeds United.

week Australian keeper Frank
Talia has agreed a new one-
month extension to his short-
term contract at Wycombe.

Talia was initially signed on a
three-month deal that was to end
on 9 November.

Wycombe would like to sign
the keeper on a longer term basis
but have been restricted because
of their financial position at the
moment.

A have this week
included news on Brett
Emerton. After being in
the headlines for several
months over a proposed move
to England, media interest in
him died away.

This week Emerton told plan-
etfootball.com about his current
playing form, his reaction to the
huge amount of transfer talk and
Feyenoord's state in Europe.

"Everything is okay with me,
although the last few weeks
weren't exactly the best of my
career."

"I don't know how it hap-
pened. Every footballer goes
through a bad patch. I wasn't
injured or anything, I just needed
some confidence in my game."

He said he was determined to
arrest the recent slump in form,
as he added: "I've suffered from
a lack of form before. I talked to
the coach about it and said that I
knew I wasn't doing as well as I
had."



Brett Emerton: This week
spoke openly about his
current form with
Feyenoord.

"But I always give 100 per-
cent. And (coach, Bert) van
Marwijk can see that."

Emerton though felt he was
unfairly singled out for criticism,
but conceded the transfer talk
may have affected his form;
"Everyone seemed to be looking
at me," he told the club's web-
site. "Maybe that's down to the
rumours about the transfer and
that more was expected of me. I
don't know."

"It is strange that the press are
on my back so often now. That's
just what happens in those phas-
es, but it's still weird."

"I've been here two years and
suddenly after a couple of bad
games they're critical. It's not
nice to hear of course, but it's
down to me to prove I am good."

On Feyenoord's play in
Europe, Emerton added: "We
have a difficult task to qualify for
the next round of the Champions
League."

"It will be disappointing if we
don't, certainly after our good
start to the season. But we can
still do it."

"If we don't then we have to
secure a place in the UEFA Cup."

Here's one for the work-
ing class-albeit the
large portion of the
whole of society.

In the spotlight this week is
former Socceroo goalkeeper
Mark Bosnich who has just
moved up five places on
Britain's rich list having only
played a handful of games since
his time at Stamford Bridge.

As Chelsea's third string goal-
keeper Bozza earns an incredible
£40,000 (\$111,000) a week.

But his personal fortune
stands at £2.1 million, putting
him level in 358th spot with fel-
low players Alen Boksic, Frank



Mark Bosnich: Sitting
comfortably in Britain's rich
list.

Lampard, Jari Litmanen and
Laurent Blanc that puts him
ahead of Leeds regular Harry
Kewell who is 420th with £1.9m.



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SA DIRECTOR PAUL AFKOS: FOCUSING ON THE JOB AT HAND

By Peter Damalas

The Annual General Meeting for Soccer Australia was marked by changes made to the Board of Directors. Held at the Novotel in Brighton Le Sands on Saturday, 26th October, a number of new faces were elected as directors.

Replacing Mr. Peter Horowitz is Mr. Paul Afkos, a former part owner of NSL club Perth Glory.

As the governing body, Soccer Australia is faced with the unenviable task of improving the game in this country. Plagued by poor attendances in the opening eight rounds, the National Soccer League is reeling from the lack of television coverage and subsequent marketing dollars. An independent inquiry has been set up to review the code, and the national team, the Socceroos, are not playing together on a regular basis.

Mr. Afkos stated that everyone involved in the sport should recognise its potential. His two primary objectives include the campaign to obtain direct qualification to the World Cup for Oceania, and to ensure the immediate and long-term financial future of the sport, which involves curtailing expenditure and arranging an international program.

"The eyes and ears of the soccer public is on

direct qualification. I will be working very closely with representatives Basil Scarsella and Joe Brondolino in lobbying FIFA to ensure a positive announcement," he said.

According to the former Perth Glory owner, more international matches will help raise the profile of the game and increase interest in soccer on a local level.

"As the various national teams improve and succeed, local soccer will ride these waves and enjoy prosperity" he said.

The new SA director believes that effective change is required so that soccer's standing can improve.

"In the last 8 years, the soccer community have spent millions of dollars talking about change and skirting around the peripherals with cosmetic adjustments.



Paul Afkos: Looking to direct SA in the right way along with the other new directors.

It is time to bite the bullet and agree on a model and the right composition, whether it be 12, 16 or 18 teams. It is the stakeholders who will decide, not the PFA or a handful of NSL clubs" he said.

When asked about the common perception that an atmosphere of disharmony exists in the governance of soccer, Mr. Afkos said that this was one of the pitfalls of democratic government.

"Soccer's governing body needs to have a common agenda, that is to lift the game to where it should be" he said.

Mr. Afkos welcomed the Independent Soccer Inquiry, describing it as an opportunity to commit to extensive research, and is optimistic about Australia's chances of hosting the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

"It would be a tremendous shot in the arm for the Australian sporting community. Australians love a challenge. People questioned if Sydney was prepared to host the Olympics, and they did a fantastic job" he said.

The new director stated that external agendas should be put to the side and that everyone involved in soccer should focus on the 'job at hand'.

Mr. Afkos declined to comment on matters that were discussed in the first meeting of the new board on Monday, 4th November, 2002.

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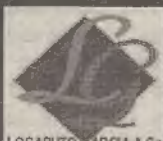
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at the Stadium's gates

SOUTH'S BIG BAD BAIRD

By Ben Moring

The much anticipated meetings between the Olympic Sharks and South Melbourne are certainly a highlight of any NSL season.

The Greek-club derby is played with unrestrained passion by the players and at times the supporters.

Last season's controversial 2-1 victory by Olympic over South in the Minor Semi Final, played at Marconi Stadium, added even more spice to the Round 7 clash between the old adversaries.

In a game that many people have stated was one of the most exhilarating in many a year, South exacted some sort of revenge by con-

demning Olympic to their first loss of the season. Furthermore, the 6-4 score line knocked Olympic off top spot in the NSL.

The match produced 10 goals and it prompted many to question why the Australian soccer public were deprived of seeing the spectacle. There was little, if any television coverage, this for a match that was sup-

posed to bring back the fans to the spluttering sport.

One man who didn't miss the fanfare was Australian youth coach Ange Postecoglou. It was just as well for South's 19-year-old striker, Michael Baird, who promptly bagged 2 goals in the all-important encounter.

To score one goal in any derby game is special, but to score two under the gaze of Postecoglou was heaven sent, as the under-20 World Cup qualifying team was announced and not surprisingly, it contained Baird's name.

This is not the first time that the Queensland-born youngster has tasted the rarefied atmosphere of Australia's top division at such a tender age, making his debut for the Brisbane Strikers last season and featuring in 15 matches, scoring 4 goals.

Baird is happy with life at present and went into some detail about representing Australia, South Melbourne, the matches against Olympic and Perth, and the hard work necessary to make the grade:

"Well it has been one of my goals forever [representing Australia], since I started playing at the Strikers last year. I've looked at it and I thought it was reachable and then I had an offer from South Melbourne. South Melbourne is a big club with history, so I knew how I had to get in there, I had to come down and play at a club like this and show them what I can do.

"So when I was selected [for Australia], it was the biggest selection of my life. I mean I can go anywhere from here now, it's just I have to knuckle down and do my best at these qualifiers and go to this [World] Cup.

"I think it will improve my club form, Ange won't let us get lazy and that's a good thing. I'll still be having lots of match practice, but I won't be in the NSL.

"I've never met Ange personally, but I knew he was watching because I watched the South Melbourne Soccer Show and he said he was going to be there. It's always got a bearing in the back of your mind, you know the Aussie coach is there.

"It was OK, I went there and to score a goal within 2 minutes was a dream come true, I was lucky.

"For us guys [myself, Murdoch and Lia - all made the under-20s] it's good because we're getting the representative honours of under-20s under our belt and you can put that on a resume.

"The club is always after these young prospects. It's the way they've been set up, I mean you look at Trimmers [Trimboli], he's been at the club for 14 years, he started off as a young boy and everyone thought he would go places, but he stuck faithful with the club. If you're faithful to them they'll be faithful to you and you'll reap the reward.

"When I was in school, I used to go to the 'school of excellence' in soccer and I used to train nearly every day and on top of that I'd train 2 or 3 times a day in Grade 12. It's just hard work for any kid and then you've got to be

focussed when you get to 18 or 19 with some obvious distractions.

"They [Olympic] were dirty for sure, now we've beaten Perth and Olympic and that's got to say something for our team. We should cement our place [in the 'top 6'].

"It seems to be, at the moment, we play well against the good teams and at home, but when we come to

and it was good.

"They [Olympic] weren't giving to us [sledding], but we knew what we had to do and go out there and give it to them. Because, as Danny said, they are a quick team, they're a really quick team and we just had to shut them down and we did well. Playing against Perth, we didn't let them dictate us.

"Danny has turned this team around, a full 360 degrees. Because the first couple of weeks I thought [I'd made the] worst decision coming to this club, we were going to go nowhere, because we weren't working as a team. We were not doing anything and then Danny, he just switched it around, he got comfortable where he is. I have to put a lot of credit down to Danny helping me too.

"I want to get set up here first. I want to finish this season, do this World Cup, qualifiers and everything and I think I will be ready next year [to move overseas].

"I'd like to go to the English League, that'd be my top priority. I don't mind the J-League; I don't mind it because I think it's a growing thing. Their level is not as high as the English Premier League, if someone can establish their name in Australia, Japan or America, anywhere, Italy or somewhere like that, then when you go to England, your chances are going to be so much better."



A bright future: South striker Michael Baird.

these bottom teams like Wollongong, we fall away.

"I knew [Clint] Bolton, because he played at Brisbane and even Danny [Wright] said to me, if you can give Bolton a few, he'll spit the dummy, he's a big sook, a big pussy cat. So I knew I had to give him a few

ENGLAND FRIENDLY NO CERTAINTY YET

A mooted friendly between the Socceroos and England in February is said to be some way from being confirmed.

English Football Association director of communications Paul Newman says nothing is yet final as far as the match goes, with Australia not even certain to be involved if England does indeed play a friendly at the time.

"We are currently in discussions with Australia and Denmark about a friendly next February, but no fixtures have

been confirmed," Newman told *Sportinglife.com*.

"Nothing is certain until the fixtures are confirmed, but it is likely England will face one of these two teams.

"The venue for the match has not yet been decided and will not be until the opposition are established."

Australia have met England four times in full internationals, but never in England. The Socceroos have been linked to friendlies against several countries - including Italy, Romania and the United States - since

last November's failed World Cup qualifying campaign.

But the poor financial state of Soccer Australia and its reported massive demands regarding any possible match are said to have scuttled any such matches, and a proposed clash with Argentina next year is said to now also be in doubt.

The Socceroos were to have played Argentina over two legs in Melbourne and Sydney in June, but the South Americans are believed to have been offered \$US1 million (\$A1.8 million) to instead play Syria.

CAHILL'S SOCCEROOS BOOST

Millwall's Australian star Tim Cahill could be on the verge of winning his long-running battle to play for the Socceroos.

Cahill has been denied the chance to represent Australia at senior international level because he played for Samoa in a youth tournament eight years ago.

The Samoans have long since relinquished claims to him but that did not stop FIFA from denying the player the chance to play for Australia in the 2000 Olympics and current Socceroos coach Frank Farina has also failed to get the player registered.



Tim Cahill has moved one step closer in gaining a cap with the Socceroos.

Now the FIFA Football Committee - composed of former players like Bobby Charlton and Michel Platini - have backed a plan that players with dual nationality be allowed one chance to change allegiance and the amendment would only apply to players, such as Cahill, who had not been capped at senior level.

"This could be what we've been waiting for," said Cahill's father Tim senior.

"Everyone knows what has happened to Tim is unfair, but nobody has been able to solve the problem. Perhaps we're finally getting somewhere."

CONT. VALE:

Peter Russell

The massive responsibility of commanding the arena-Security was instantly placed on the broad shoulders of one Peter Russell by the Peter Promoters. Who better to appoint as Stadium Marshall?

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When Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth toured Australia, Peter was also a key member of the undercover security force to guard the Royal entourage.

Sydney City ultimately folded in 1987. Peter's experience and Soccer background took him that same year into the corridors of the Australian Soccer Federation where he filled the role of Assistant General Manager of the National Soccer League.

Just a year later Peter Russell was installed as the General Manager of the NSL, a position he held for a record eight years.

Ill health was proving a massive burden to Peter and in 1996 withdrew from that demanding position but stayed on as

Technical Director to the A.S.F. till his retirement in 1998.

Over the many years, this blond, hulky, no-nonsense former proud Scot, made many friends.

Last Friday afternoon almost 200 of these friends quietly filed into the funeral service at the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney, bidding one Peter Russell their final farewell as he made his way to the 'Big Stadium' above.

Inside the Chapel a scattering of members from the Soccer fraternity, included Alan Vessey, Eddie and Pauline Thomson, Geoff Harcombe, Jimmy Magill, Sammy Vella, George Dick, Denis Hoggart, Stefan Kamasz, Dave Cooper, David Woolley and Vicky Juric.

During the service a patriotic rendition of 'The Flower Of Scotland' was played and the service gently came to an end with Buddy Holly softly singing Peter's heart-haroured, 'Raining In My Heart'.

ABSWS's Management and Staff extends its deepest and sincerest condolences to the Russell Family, (Kathryn, Alistair and David).

Peter, we loved and respected you. We'll never forget you. May you rest in peace.

With Fond Remembrance.

By John Economos.

Emerton ready to show form

Socceroo midfielder Brett Emerton says he's ready to show everyone how good he is after a month of poor form and bad press.

Emerton has been on the receiving end from the media, fans and even his coach at his Dutch club Feyenoord after some indifferent displays in recent weeks.

But the 23-year-old - who was again linked with a move to English club Leeds this week - believes he's on the verge of turning things around.

"I guess more was expected of me," Emerton said on *www.feyenoord.com*.

"It's now up to me to show how good I am. Everything is okay with me, although the last few weeks weren't exactly the best of my career.

"I don't know how it happened. Every footballer goes through a bad patch. I wasn't injured or anything, I just needed some confidence in my game."

Emerton's poor form prompted an extraordinary verbal blast from coach

Bert van Marwijk, who claimed he was ready to give up on the young Australian.

But van Marwijk has retained Emerton in the starting side and the ex-Olyroo captain showed signs of hitting his straps at the weekend, setting up a goal for Japan's Shinji Ono in the second half of Feyenoord's 2-0 win over FC Groningen.



Brett Emerton: Raring for a big month with Feyenoord.

"I've suffered from a lack of form before," Emerton said.

"You just have to keep your head. I talked to the coach about it and said that I knew I wasn't doing as well as I had.

"But I always give one hundred per cent - and Van Marwijk can see that. I've been here two years and suddenly after a couple of bad games they're critical.

"It's not nice to hear of course, but its down to me to prove I am good."

Emerton also conceded he was struggling with the expectations associated with being one of the star players in the Feyenoord side.

"This season there's more expected of me," Emerton said.

"Really I'm not a natural leader. That's also expected in the Australian team. I'm one of the more established players there.

"Whether I'm happy with those expectations - there are two sides to it. On the one hand it says you're a good footballer but it also puts you under more pressure."



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SA tightlipped on TV talks

A marathon meeting has failed to resolve the television contract wrangle between Soccer Australia and Channel Seven.

The eight-hour meeting ended at 10pm last Monday night with the cash-strapped SA yet to sign off on a re-negotiated deal with Channel 7 that would inject an immediate \$3.5 million into its coffers.

The network is ready to hand over a further \$1 million each year for eight years to the organisation.

In exchange, it will have an unfettered run with the Socceroos but can ditch its agreement to cover the ailing national soccer league, which has not received any television time this season because of the collapse of Seven's pay-TV arm, C7.

SA chief executive Alan Vessey would not comment on the board meeting except to say that "there are ongoing negotiations continuing with

Channel 7."

One board member, who did not wish to be named, said negotiations with Channel 7 were secret because it was such an important deal to the future of the game.

But he did say the board had lost confidence in SA chairman Ian Knop, whose future at the helm of the

The government's review panel is expected to release its report by the middle of next year - six months later than originally envisaged.

Knop emerged unscathed from SA's annual general meeting on October 26 when the new board resisted calling for his resignation.

But his grip on the top job appears to be slipping as the NSL battles on without sponsorship and television coverage and with crowds on the decline. The board member said that the impasse with Channel 7 needed to be resolved quickly in the interests of the game but stressed that SA would not be pressured into signing off the deal.

"I see us at rock bottom level but starting to build a new foundation," he said.

"What I'm trying to say is that we've got that foundation in the board, without Ian Knop."

The board member said he hoped the government inquiry into the sport did not jeopardise the chances of FIFA in December granting Oceania an automatic World Cup qualification spot.



game's ruling body looks grim.

"He's just lost it, he's got no credibility," the board member said.

"I'm afraid he's a spent force, not just with the board but with the stakeholders."

The board member said that Knop was likely to survive at least until the federal government's inquiry into the game was completed.



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National League Round 8 Reports



Parramatta Power	2
Brisbane Strikers	0

By Daniel Kuziow

The Parramatta Power continued the misery for the Brisbane Strikers as they recorded a comfortable two-nil win at Parramatta Stadium.

It was the Power's second win of the season while for the visiting Strikers, it was their sixth loss of the season after only eight games.

An early goal from Pablo Cardozo and a late strike from his replacement Royce Brownlie sealed the win that has seen Parramatta jump seven places on the table to fifth place.

Parramatta looked the bet-

ter of the two sides early on and after only 11 minutes had their first chance. Pablo Cardozo pounced on a poor defensive pass to release Ahmad Elrich, but he could only find the side netting with his shot.

Only four minutes later referee Con Diomis awarded a dubious looking penalty after a contest between Power's Matthew Langdon and the Strikers' David Pilic.

Langdon had been beautifully released into the Power's attacking third, but as he crossed it Pilic appeared to block it.

The ball ricocheted back to Langdon who fumbled the ball over the line somewhat

innocuously. Yet Diomis pointed to the penalty spot and Pablo Cardozo was able to convert.

Sadly though for Cardozo, it was to be his last action of the match and for at least a month as he limped off in what was later confirmed as an upper thigh injury that will keep him out for up to eight weeks.

With the game no more than 20 minutes old, Brisbane should have been level with their first real attempt at goal, when Shane Stefanutto was able to break on the left and his cross found an unmarked Kris Trajanovski just 8 metres out, but his shot was mist-

imed allowing Liam Reddy to save comfortably down low.

A dull 30 minute period into the second half was briefly ignited by two youngsters when Matthew McKay's 20 metre shot was brilliantly saved by the young Power custodian Reddy.

But with 15 minutes remaining Power suddenly came to life and Brownlie was narrowly over the bar with a header after a good cross from Elrich and it was in the 78th minute, that Brownlie delivered the killer blow with a sweet header from a brilliant cross by Englishman Wayne O Sullivan.

It should have been three but Kosta Salapasis' injury time shot was well saved by Jason Kearton from the edge of the area.



Strikers Peter Grierson (left) battles with Power's Brandon Renaud for the ball.

Adelaide City Force	4
South Melbourne	0

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide City Force celebrated 25 years of NSL games against South Melbourne with a glorious 4-0 win at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday to record its biggest ever win over its fellow founding member and arch rival.

City also threw some other long standing monkeys off its back by being awarded its first penalty since it netted one against Wollongong Wolves 31 NSL matches ago.

And, the Force engineered its first shut out in 19 successive matches to vastly improve its goal difference.

The home team sported a commemorative all-white strip and

rose to the quarter-century occasion with a magnificent display of purposeful attacking football, laced with superb cohesive team work.

With man marking defender Gianluca Lagati sidelined through injury and flank man Goran Lozanovski dropped for disciplinary reasons, City coach Charley Villani gave Kiwi international striker Shane Smeltz his debut run-on start and reintroduced young defender, Iain Fyfe.

City played like men possessed to hit the front in the 19th minute. The move was begun by Fyfe with a lofted cross from the right where Aurelio Vidmar headed the ball back from the edge of the bye-line into the teeth of goal for Scott Tunbridge to nod home past Dean Anastasiadis in the South

goal. It was 2-0 for the Force a minute later when Fyfe fed a pass through the middle of the box to Lucas Pantelis, but Mehmet Durakovic lucklessly turned the ball into his own net.

Worse followed for the Blues four minutes on as Michael Baird kicked Vidmar as he lay on the ground. Referee Eddie Lennie, acting on the advice of his assistant, Paul Cetrangolo, issued the red card to the Under 20 international.

South was under the hammer for the rest of the first half with every man Jack of the Force team at the top of their form.

Vaughan Coveny, in his 200th NSL game, offered a glimmer of hope on the stroke of half time when he skimmed the crossbar with a piledriver from outside the box.

City added to its considerable advantage in the 62 minute as Vidmar and Smeltz raced together towards the South goal.

Former Australian international Vidmar peeled off the tandem attack to allow Smeltz to continue solo before the Kiwi drilled the ball into the roof of the South net to register his first goal for City.

A goal bound header from Claudio Pelosi was headed off the goalline by Durakovic before Panopoulos handled the ball in the penalty area, allowing Pelosi to drill the penalty past Anastasiadis.

This was unquestionably Adelaide City's best performance of the season as it underlined the strength and depth of the Villani heroes and their ability to jell effectively against a quality opponent.

So smooth and calculated was the teamwork that any one of the starting line-up could feel aggrieved at not being included in City's best player list.

Marconi Stallions	2
Football Kingz	1

By Joe Russo

"A striker like him (Joe Spiteri) would be a very important player for us. I think he is the type of player we are looking for."

Those were the prophetic words of Marconi coach Raul Blanco to the media immediately after the home loss two weeks ago against Parramatta Power.

What a prediction it was! Spiteri scored both of Marconi's goals against the Kingz FC of Auckland adding to his double the previous week against Brisbane Strikers. Four goals in two games is certainly something to be very proud of.

Furthermore, Marconi who had yet to win a game prior to Spiteri's arrival, have now won two on the trot. Spiteri has added class up front for Marconi and generally breathed an air of confidence into the team.

Marconi were not winning prior to his arrival but were certainly not playing as badly as the points table would have had some believing.

However, all that may be behind them now and this spare parts team, assembled together on a shoestring budget, looks like progressing.

The Kingz on the other hand were certainly courageous opponents and were never really out of the game despite trailing by two goals at one stage.

For the Kingz though there was certainly one unsavoury incident just minutes before the half time whistle. Coach Ken Dugdale reacted to a Marconi fan standing behind the benches. Obviously baited, the ex Kiwi boss in no uncertain terms and with the aid of some very unpleasant gestures behind his back, told the fan what he thought of the taunt.

Soccer Australia could well look

into the incident but given that the television cameras were on the opposite side of the ground, Dugdale might well get away with his unsportsmanlike conduct.

The game itself, played on a balmy summer's night, was a real spectacle. End to end action for the best part of the game.

However, Blanco almost erred in the last twenty minutes or so. Michael Thwaite a defender replaced Tony Perinich an attacker.

During that time the Kingz were able to score via Harry Ngata in the 73rd minute who chested the ball in, between the Marconi keeper Michael Turnbull and a defender.

It was 'catenaccio' at its best. Marconi, who now plays in a similar blue strip to the Italian national team, had employed their out-dated tactics as well.

It was a South American coach, the late Helenio Herrera who introduced that style of play in Italy at Inter Milan some forty years ago, and it was now another coach of South American heritage bringing it back at Marconi Stadium on Friday night.

Darren McDonald tested Kingz keeper Michael Utting in the 19th minute with a piledriver from outside the box and, four minutes later, his opposite number Turnbull brilliantly saved with an outstretched hand from

Raffaele De Gregorio of the Kingz. Spiteri's first goal was a well-timed shot after a lovely through ball from Grant Last in the 40th minute but the Kingz were unlucky not to equalise immediately.

A James Pritchett cross found Ngata and his header was hit powerfully against the crossbar.

Spiteri's second goal was an equally well taken strike in the 56th minute. Dominic Longo placed the ball back into him from a long corner and Spiteri made sure that it finished in the top right hand corner of the net.

Marconi then went into defensive gear and the visitors scored in the 73rd minute. So much so that even when there was a free kick to Marconi in the 79th minute just outside the Kingz goal area, Marconi had four defenders, Longo, Thwaite, Chad Gibson and Tony Sekulic, waiting in their own half. Spiteri could have scored a hat-trick with the last kick of the game but he was off cue this time and the ball, with the goal wide open after some lovely lead up work from Steven Bozanovski, narrowly shaved the post.





Joe Spiteri: Marconi's gun marksman was at it again last Friday night as he bagged another double bringing his tally to four goals in two matches.



Adelaide Force striker Shane Smeltz takes on South Melbourne defender Robert Liparoti during last Sunday's match that ended in City's favour, four-nil.

National League Round 8 Reports

	Olympic Sharks	1
	Sydney United	0

MIDFIELDER Andrew Packer snatched an injury-time goal to save Olympic Sharks from a humiliating NSL draw at Shark Park last Sunday night.

The winning scoreline was a poor reflection for the victors who were unable to overcome a depleted Sydney United who were down to nine players for the last four minutes.

United lost striker Commins Menapi in the 12th minute for a crude tackle on Mark Byrnes and Slavomir Lukac two minutes from time for a second yellow card offence.

When New Zealand referee Derek Rugg blew fulltime he was quickly surrounded by United players who were obviously upset at his decisions.

Officials quickly moved to disperse the players as Rugg was escorted from the field.

"We had Rugg in Auckland

when we played the Kingz because Soccer Australia said it would save money and then they fly him here for this game, so where's the logic," said Sydney United coach Branko Culina.

"It's been a failed day for us. We had two players sent off and the team worked very hard with nothing to show for it."

The game started in sterling fashion with Menapi leading a spirited United attack but fell away dramatically after the first send off.

Olympic showed little of their early season winning form and failed to exert any pressure lanky United keeper Vanja Ivesa.

The only real chance in the first half came ten minutes from the break when Packer headed the ball wide from in front of goal.

"I thought at halftime that a goal would come," Olympic coach Gary Phillips said.

"The forwards were very

patient and kept working away. I expected Ante Milicic or Tom Pondeljak to hit the target."

United rarely looked like scoring in the second half and Olympic keeper Clint Bolton was not called on for a single save during the session.

Substitute Greg Owens, who replaced Franco Parisi in the 75th minute came close for Olympic when his volley minutes from fulltime crashed against the upright, hit the keeper on the rebound and ran away for a corner.



With the match two minutes into extra time, winger Hiroyuki Ishida started a movement on the right with the ball moving in to the centre where Packer curled his shot into the far left corner and away from the unsighted keeper.

The lucky escape for Olympic puts them back at the head of the NSL table after last week's leader Perth Glory had the bye this weekend.

*Source AAP



Olympic had Andy Packer to thank after his 92nd minute strike gave the Sharks the vital three points.

	Wollongong Wolves	2
	Northern Spirit	1

There were two unusual happenings in the NSL match at WIN Stadium last Sunday night - rain - and the

Wollongong Wolves scoring a home goal.

The Wolves beat Northern Spirit to post both their first win and goals at home this

season.

The victory keeps Wollongong on the edge of the NSL top six while Sean Babic's 36th minute tap-in was Wollongong's first goal in four home games.

John Hutchinson equalised for the Spirit on 55 minutes before Stuart Young scored Wollongong's match winner eight minutes later.

With Wollongong away to second placed Perth next weekend and then having the bye the following round the victory, like the hour of showery drizzle was most welcome.

"We were coasting at one-nil and it could have been two-nil or three-nil," Wolves coach Ron Corry said.

"Then we self destructed giving the ball away defending too deep and rode our luck particularly in the second half.

"It was an important win for us keeping us in touch with the top six."

Babic netted the opening goal after fellow striker Naume Sekulovski had his shot rebound off the cross bar to the feet of Liam Austin.

The defender crossed to Babic who side-footed into an unattended goal from three metres out.

Wollongong enjoyed a share of good fortune despite taking the lead with the Spirit missing several clear

chances.

Striker Hamilton Thorp squandered two great opportunities in the first half - the first failing to even make contact with only goalkeeper Andrew Crews to beat, then flashing wide from 15 metres.

Even after going behind the Spirit pressed on and fully deserved their equaliser.

over Spirit keeper Paul Henderson.

Still Wollongong survived a few late scares with Austin clearing off the line, Crews saving off Andrew McDermott as the Spirit pressed for an equaliser.

In injury time Hutchinson almost grabbed a precious point for the visitors but was denied by a brilliant point blank save by Crews.



John Hutchinson's goal was not enough to seal a victory for the Spirit as they came crashing down to a two-one defeat to the Wolves.

Hutchinson exploited some static Wollongong defending to make space for himself and his shot went under Crews' body.

Wollongong steadied and Young restored their lead after a neat interchange with Sekulovski with the striker staying calm to slot his shot

The Wolves goalkeeper along with defender David Cervinski and midfielder Dino Mennillo were outstanding for Wollongong while Henderson, Hutchinson and defender Noel Spencer stood out for the Spirit.

*Source AAP



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At Phillips Park, Lurnea

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Sundays 11.00am start
20th, 27th October & 3rd November

Under 21's & 1st Grade
Wednesday 6.00pm start
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th November
Monday 6.00pm start
11th, 18th & 25th November

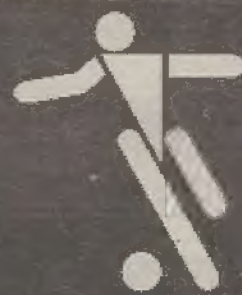
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QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

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Super Start to Summer League

By Paul Schiavo

The inaugural Super Summer League kicked off this weekend at venues across South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Six teams — Queensland Lions, Rochedale Rovers, Far North Coast, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba Raiders and Gold Coast City — will battle it out in a competition designed to highlight some of the best Under 21 players in the region.

Rochedale Rovers1
Queensland Lions . . .(1-2) 3

In the only fixture in the Brisbane area, a good sized crowd at Underwood Park saw the home team Rochedale Rovers take on last year's Premier Division champions Queensland Lions.

The match saw the debut of new Qld Lion's coach Gary Johnson as well as a number of new signings. It also saw the return to the Rovers of club stalwart Paddy Dillon, teaming up along side former partner Keiran Cooper as assistant along with Senior Coaches Tim Brown and Ken Armstrong.

The half time scoreline of 2-1 to the Lions was an indication of a well balanced match. After an even first 25 minutes where Rochedale more than matched their more experienced opponents, Man of the Match Cody Lovell opened the scoring for Lions.

To Rochedale's credit they managed an equalizer 10 minutes later through Mark Cruse only for Danny Flaskas to edge the Lions in front with only 8 minutes to go in the half, after a fine through ball from Terry Hughes.

Lions had a number of chances to increase their lead mainly on the break but Rover's keeper Chris O'Connor kept the Lions at bay.

The second half saw both side close to scoring but it was a Chris Di Sipio strike with 15 minutes to go that sealed the Lion's victory.

Rochedale Rover's coach Keiran Cooper was more than pleased with his side's first up effort.

"With a squad made up of a mix of Rochedale's Junior Colts, Premier Youth and a few Reserve players I was more than pleased with our efforts, especially the first 25 minutes where we more than matched it with a quality Lion's side.

I thought their first goal was against the run of play but we did well to equalize only for a defensive lapse to let them in again. The SSL gives me a great opportunity to see what we've got coming up through the ranks."

Queensland Lion's Director of Coaching John Sime was delighted with the result but also impressed with the team's first up performance.

"It was a good chance to have a look at a number of players and I was particularly happy with the overall performance. We had a number of chances that we failed to capitalize on especially in the first half but I feel we were clearly the better side throughout and deserved our victory.

Credit though to the Rochedale performance and on their promotion of the game."

Toowoomba Raiders1
Gold Coast City(0-0) 1

With a mixture of Reserve, Youth and local Palm Beach players, Gold Coast City made the long trek to Toowoomba and came back with a hard earned point.

After an even first half where the home side missed a penalty, the second half saw Gold Coast's John Costello open the scoring only for Toowoomba to even the score with a well taken free-kick from about

25 metres that managed to elude the Coast keeper. Toowoomba were reduced to 10 men for the final minutes but try as they might the Coast were unable to penetrate a solid Toowoomba defense.

The final match of the round saw the Sunshine Coast defeat Far North Coast 1-0.

QLD SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE NEXT WEEK FIXTURES

All Games Kick-Off at 7.00pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16

QUEENSLAND LIONS

VS

SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST

Lions Stadium, Richlands Qld

GOLD COAST CITY

VS

SUNSHINE COAST

Mallawa Drive Sports Complex, Palm Beach Qld

ROCHEDALE ROVERS

VS

TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS

Underwood Park, Rochedale Qld

QUEENSLAND SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE

Results & Table

ROCHEDALE1
QUEENSLAND LIONS3

SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST0
SUNSHINE COAST1

TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS1
GOLD COAST CITY1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qld Lions	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Sunshine Coast	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Toowoomba	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Gold Coast City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
S.F.N.C. Lismore	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rochedale	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

DOSZPOT TO REIGN NO LONGER IN CANBERRA

By Graham Cooke

Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot said yesterday that he would not be seeking a fourth term at the annual meeting, to be held on December 16.

The unexpected announcement sent shockwaves through the ACT soccer community, and left key officials scratching their heads as to who should replace him.

He said his decision had nothing to do with his failure to win election to the Soccer Australia board the week before. "It's not sour grapes, anger or disappointment," he said.

"I have served for seven years and been re-elected unopposed three times. On the one hand I can see that as a compliment, but at the same time I want to see new people come forward.

"I am not stepping away from soccer — I will be available if people want my advice and assistance — but I want to leave when things are running smoothly and there are no major problems."

That was far from the case when Doszpot was elected in 1995, originally as vice-president to the highly controversial Ron Watkins. He agreed it was one of the more turbulent times in ACT soccer history.

His administration has overseen a major restructuring and the move to new premises at Football House

in Deakin. There has been a significant growth in participation rates with the total of registered juniors standing at a record high of 9500, together with more than 2000 seniors.

He would probably regard the expansion of the Kanga Cup as the major achievement of his presidency. Now established as the nation's premier international youth tournament it attracted a record 203 teams last year.

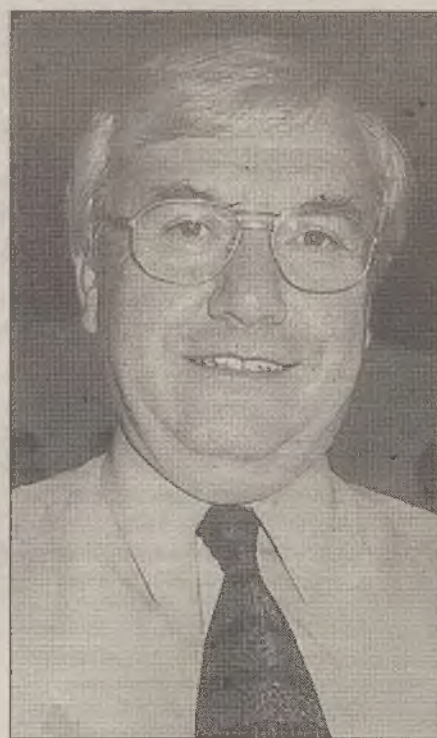
He was also instrumental in involving the diplomatic community with the local game, inaugurating a series of Friendship Cup matches between teams representing the embassies and high commissions and his hand-picked President's XI.

Doszpot described the local game as being in "reasonable" shape but agreed there were areas of concern, especially in the flagship Premier League.

"I have passed on to the incoming board my hope they will continue to support past initiatives aimed at providing development pathways for all participants, both at elite and general participation level," he said.

He also took a parting shot at the continued internal politicking at national level which, he said, had contributed to soccer going through one of its most critical periods in Australia.

"I have strongly urged the Soccer Canberra board and the clubs to maintain Canberra's support of the Australian Sports Commission-led review of our game, and for initiatives aimed at restructuring the governance of Soccer Australia," he said.



Soccer Canberra Chairman Steve Doszpot will not be seeking a fourth term at the helm.

VICTORIAN CHRONICLES



By Brendon Davis

NSL FINISHED? VICS DEVELOP NEW NATIONAL LEAGUE

The NSL is finished – this is its last season!

Or this is the intention of a committee comprising seven of the most powerful men in Australian Soccer, three of them Victorians who have spent much of the last few weeks locked behind closed doors, negotiating the future of our national competition.

"Soccer Australia see the NSL as an expense item – not as the flagship national competition" one of those present at the meeting told ABSW.

And ABSW has learned the group comprises Glory owner Nick Tana, long time NSL heavyweight Remo Nogarotto, PFA boss Brendan Schwab, together with representatives from NSL Clubs South Melbourne, Olympic Sharks and Newcastle.

The final member of the powerful group is respected business analyst and planner John Poulakakis (son of former South Melbourne great) who was retained by the PFA to conduct the detailed blueprint detailing the optimal future structure for the Australian domestic soccer competition.

The new competition is likely to commence in 2004/05 after Australian domestic soccer goes into recess for a year (see next article).

Our new competition which is likely to be titled the APL is intended to involve 8 well capitalised clubs with a 32 round home and away season although the possibility of the league comprising 10 teams remains. Each club will be required to operate from a boutique soccer stadium with professional administration and marketing complimented by a healthy financial base. A media partner will own 25% of the entity with other investors including Nick Tana owning equity.

Under the PFA model, at least 25% of the equity will be retained by participating clubs with television and corporate sponsorship forming the backbone of the new competition.

ABSW has learned the new competition will likely involve as few as four of the current NSL Clubs; Perth Glory, Olympic Sharks, Newcastle United and South Melbourne.

A second Victorian Club will probably be admitted but its unlikely to be the Sunshine domiciled Melbourne Knights.

Likewise South Australian will be represented but its unlikely to be through the Force.

In Brisbane the Strikers are unlikely to survive?

The most radical change will occur in New South Wales. Wollongong and Marconi don't figure in future plans for the competition. Sydney United are considered unlikely as are the Northern Spirit while Olympic and Newcastle are certainly in. Parramatta too is likely to secure the final spot available in from NSW, subject to the leagues club maintaining its financial support.

A second club may be admitted from WA and possibly one extra from NSW, but not from Sydney. There won't be a Tasmanian Club nor a New Zealand representative.

As ABSW goes to press we understand the framework for the competition has been resolved with the only major item to be resolved being the affiliation fee. This is expected to be somewhere between \$500,000 and \$1.5m with the likely sum being around \$750k

A joint press statement is expected as soon as this aspect is resolved, probably over the next week.

NO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER NEXT YEAR

The NSL grand final may be the last national league soccer match in Australia for 18 months.

Some involved in the proposed APL advocate a years sabbatical for the national league, partly to financially bleed the unwanted NSL Clubs according to Melbourne Knights General Manager John Ovcacic.

He says clubs such as the Knights, which are asset rich but cash poor can ill afford to go without their match income stream for a season so a year without football is financially unsustainable for us. "A 12 month hiatus would see some clubs fail. Going into recession would result in some clubs failing which is their intention" Ovcacic told ABSW.

He claims to have uncovered the plan prior to the recent SA AGM. He delivered a hard-hitting address at the AGM, which was strongly supported by several delegates from across the country.

He remains critical the proposed meeting scheduled for 2 days this week in Melbourne was delayed as "the PFA was unavailable". Another club official claimed the delay was forced by the PFA being committed

to further discussions with a committee over the proposed APL (see other article) with this meeting likely to resume over the next few weeks, "but probably not until after the release of the joint press release from the APL".

HORSE TO PLAY 200th GAME

Popular South Melbourne striker Vaughan Coveny will this week play his 200th match for South Melbourne.

Coveny, spent time at Wollongong and the Knights before joining South Melbourne in season 1995/96. His career has yielded 62 goals for South, 81 career goals in total in 265 NSL matches.

He becomes the second player this season to play 200 matches for South and will join six players including current team-mates, Trimboli, Panopoulos and Durakovic to have done so.



Vaughan Coveny played his 200th match last week marking a remarkable milestone for the Kiwi striker.

"I don't read too much into statistics. It is a great honour to achieve this, especially at a club like South Melbourne, which has so much history and is a founding member of the league. I'm proud to have played so many matches for the Club".

"The Club has high expectations and I am lucky to have been here for so many years. It's really cut throat, because if you don't perform, then you won't be here for too long", says Coveny.

The 30-year-old speedy striker has played in three Grand Finals for South including Back-to-Back Championships. He represented the club at the FIFA Club World Championships where he came extremely close to scoring, hitting both posts against world super club Manchester United.

"I would have liked the ball to have gone in, but it comes with being a striker. Sometimes it goes your way and other times not. It's a shame I didn't score against Manchester, I would have never forgot it", says Coveny.

"It's important we stay in the top six and draw a big crowd at home against the Knights. We need South Melbourne supporters to turn up at the Melbourne derby and all those who watched the Olympic game to return to Bob Jane Stadium and cheer us on," says the striker. Vaughan Coveny is South Melbourne's fourth highest top NSL goal scorer and sits only 7 goals behind Con Boutisianis and 11 from Charlie Egan.

VICTORIAN DERBY

Fans have the opportunity to witness the first local derby on Sunday.

Kick off at Bob Jane is at 6:00pm. With both clubs getting the injured players back an action packed game is assured. It'll be the first time Danny Wright will experience the derby as a coach although he played in many such derbies in his playing days.

Supporters are encouraged to arrive early to ensure admission prior to kick off.



VEART CREDITS HIS OVERSEAS SUCCESS TO MORI

By Allan Crisp

Back in 1994 a sudden change of plan by goal collector Damian Mori had an unexpected career shaping effect on his bosom buddy Carl Veart.

Mori and Veart were then starring for Adelaide City, which was due to play English club Sheffield United in an end of season friendly at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Both players originally decided not to take the field that night because the day before Mori was to tie the knot and Veart was a groomsman at the wedding, along with Damian's two brothers.

However, Mori had an understanding bride, who agreed to delay their honeymoon to allow her husband to play.



Carl Veart shown in action at a Socceroo training camp some years back.

"I'm not a big drinker, but I celebrated well at the reception," Veart recalls. I wasn't going to play and perhaps I shouldn't have played, but since Damian said he was going to, I decided to go along with the idea."

The rest is history with Veart impressing Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett to the extent that the flame haired Whyalla-born Veart was offered a contract with the Blades.

Veart went from Sheffield United (1994-96) to Premier League club Crystal Palace (1996-98) followed by a brief spell with Millwall before returning to South Australia and Adelaide City.

During his professional career in the UK, Veart fulfilled and surpassed his boyhood aspirations of playing at Wembley Stadium and scoring a winning FA Cup goal for Sheffield United against Arsenal a still discussed spectacular diving header.

Another highlight arrived when Veart trod the Wembley turf for the Blades in a promotional play-off in front of 78,000 supporters.

"We lost 2-1 but I went back to Wembley the following year with Palace and we won, although I was on the bench for that one."

An accredited electrician, Veart reached his 250th NSL game milestone against Newcastle United after making his debut for Adelaide City against Wollongong Wolves in 1989.

Along that star-studded path, Veart netted 66 goals for City, while squeezing in 18 international games for the Socceroos.

He was a key member of the Force teams that won NSL championships in 1992 and 1994, topping the scoring in both those campaigns and in 1993.

At 32 years of age, Veart reckons he should be good for another three or four seasons at NSL level.

He has performed in a variety of positions since starting as a recognised striker for Whyalla Croatia, Salisbury United and Adelaide City, alternating from central defender to midfielder.

Veart still stays in touch with Perth Glory hotshot Mori with the friends on the blower, "At least a couple of times a week."

But, with the Force looming as a finals prospect this season, few tactical secrets are exchanged.

Now and again, the conversation could switch to that night in May of 1994 when Adelaide City defeated Sheffield United 3-0 a nostalgic occasion that signalled the end of the playing career of staunch defender Paul Shillabeer and the return to Perth of Robert Zabica.

Brad Hassell came off the bench to net two goals with Veart, fittingly scoring the other goal.

VSF

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Victorian Soccer Federation
PO Box 824 South Melbourne 3205
or email: igreener@soccervictoria.org.au



Closing date: November 22, 2002

www.soccervictoria.org.au

Letters to the Editor

PRAISE FOR JAIME

Dear Sir,

I'm sick and tired of having so called expert journalists (and no I'm not referring to anyone at ABSW) bad mouthing Leeds United youngster Jaime McMaster.

Sure enough he turned his back on Australia but did he have an offer?

Was he called upon at the time of need to play for the green and gold?

The way I see it, England came in first, they offered him a place in the squad and the youngster took it, should we ridicule his actions?

For far too long I've heard people slam this player who I know one day will become a big star, and I know full well that behind this so called image these 'JOURNALISTS' have portrayed Jaime, he's an Aussie kid through and through.

There are many other McMaster's who play in Australia and unfortunately seep through the system unnoticed, leave these shores for greener pastures overseas.

Once they make a career move that betters their future and become stars, the Australian media latch on top of this and brand them as Anti-Australians - come on give me a break?

What incentive does a youngster have by staying in this country?

The majority of the players in the Socceroos - U23-U20 and so on are from overseas clubs so there's no point



Jaime McMaster

in staying in the National League.

Wake up people - its easy to point the finger at a youngster but at the end of the day, the player makes his own decision that will benefit HIS future not anyone else's. It's quite simple, if people don't like it then tough, its not their lives their living.

Scott Murphy,
Bondi, NSW

PEÑAROL - THE KINGS OF SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Dear Sir,

Just want to express my delight about having Uruguay's Peñarol coming to Australia with their full squad to play two matches against the Wolves and Marconi.

I have been a Peñarol supporter for many years now, and unfortunately have been unable to return to my country due to health reasons however having them at my doorstep this month is like a dream come true.

Having the likes of Elduayen, Rotundo, Estoyanoff, Cedris, Lima, Canobbio, Nunes, Bueno and the list goes on of superstars from Peñarol play here is terrific.

Good to see information about the club in last week's ABSW letting the readers now how good this team really is.

Their records speak for itself 5-time winner of the Copa Libertadores and taking out the local championship many times.

I know that the side will put on a great display of skill, something that really lacks in this country. Maybe we can learn from these players and hope that our National League can improve on skill level.

Forza Peñarol

Luis Souza,
Smithfield, NSW

LESS TALK MORE ACTION

Dear Sir,

I am a regular and avid soccer reader who tries to keep up with the state of the game here in Australia and it is with great sorrow that I say the state of soccer in this country is in a very bad way.

It is but two weeks since Soccer Australia had their AGM and already the knives are being sharpened and for obvious reasons.

Ian Knop has done nothing and judging from the latest feud over television rights when he does something does not have the backing of the board of SA. I wonder how difficult it is to actually sit down

work out a plan with elected stakeholders come to a unanimous decision about what should be done, then take it to a television network and work out a deal? It seems to Knop that it is too hard.

What's more, Knop sherks away from

responsibility. He refuses to answer media unless there is some positive aspect in the game (fat chance) and more importantly refuses to do his job as chairman of SA.

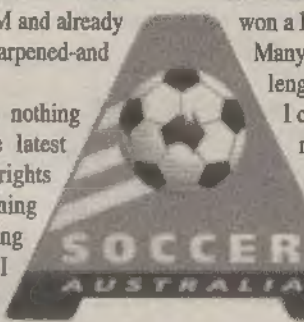
Stakeholders want him out. We only have to have a look at the recent results of the AGM to see this. Dominic Galati won a landslide by almost 50 votes.

Many critics are tipping him to challenge for the role of chairman and if I can say so know he would be the right man for the job.

Soccer in this country needs to be promoted and what better way to do this than to elect someone with an advertising/promotions background.

And while the results would not be immediate one thing's for sure we would actually see some positive movement occurring at SA.

Peter Curren,
St Ives, NSW.



THE NSL IS DEAD!

Dear Sir,

As a loyal yet long suffering Australian soccer fan, it is with great sadness that I announce, "THE NSL IS DEAD!"

I make this observation after having watched the Northern Spirit v Perth Glory game on Friday night. In front of a mere 2,000 or so people, two of the leagues marquee sides squared off in a game which promised so much, but delivered so very little. How any club can make ends meet with the paltry crowd figures, no television coverage and little corporate support is anybody's guess, but one thing is certain, the league is definitely on it's last legs.

Having said that, it's not

the fault of the fans nor the players, but the blame lies fairly and squarely at the feet of Soccer Australia. The end of the NSL will set the development of the game back 30 years. Just like the demise of the Australian Baseball League in the mid 1990s almost sent that sport to the wall, soccer is soon to follow suit.

In a game that draws so much support at junior level and is a religion at international level, why over the past 25 years can't we get the middle bit right?

Long live Football, RIP the NSL.

Regards

Craig Peters,
Epping, NSW

What About Skoko?

Dear Sir,

With numerous reports running around that Harry Kewell should be the Socceroos next skipper, some people have seem to forgotten another man who is doing just as good as Harry.

Josip Skoko in my mind has the profile to become Australia's next captain. Not only is he Genk's captain in Belgium, but he's also had the chance to showcase his skills in the famous Champions League, something Harry has yet to achieve.

I do not underestimate Kewell's ability as a player - for me he is one of the best, however I hope Farina doesn't forget about another player who should be given



Josip Skoko

a go as being the nations number one man.

I've seen a couple of matches from the Belgian league with Skoko and he has impressed me a lot. Hardworking midfielder in the centre of the park. I know that he'd show a lot of grunt if given the chance to skipper Australia.

Garry Rowes,
Ipswich, QLD.

LEAVE 'BECKS' ALONE!

Dear Sir,

What is this world coming to? I seriously want to know after hearing last week that an organized gang wanted to kidnap Victoria Beckham?

I could not believe that for so long, this family has been hounded and harassed by the media and public. I for one want to say that they should leave them alone!

It's hard enough for David, being heckled and booed from the terraces whilst playing football for Manchester United and England, and no one will ever forget the pain poor old Dave went through after he got red-carded in the 2000 World Cup.

Adding to this, attempts to kidnap not only Victoria but their little son Brooklyn asks the question, how moronic and idiotic people are in this world.

David is a world-class player, he's showed



David Beckham

that he can compete with the world's best, incidents like these are not needed for one who has done so much for this sport.

It's upsetting how his personal life has been tampered with, its not on!

Sally Feldman,
Albury, VIC

TV DEAL OR DEATH?

Dear Sir,

I think the time is right to say it is time to bring in a television network to help promote the national league. Crowds are at their lowest on record, overall support of clubs is dwindling and the competition is close to folding.

We all know about the wonders of television and how it can have the potential to turn something not necessarily all that popular into something that people cannot get enough of. A prime example of this is Rugby Union.

There had always been a large supporter network but since Channel 7 really emphasised its coverage the popularity of the game has shot through the roof.

Soccer has a huge following in this country and the biggest grassroots network of any sport.

We have already seen the power of the World Cup at work and I think Channel 9 are regretting they didn't televise more games but imagine what could happen if a similar program was taken on board by a TV network in promoting the NSL. OK the NSL is a different level to the World Cup but it is all soccer and would ignite the same passions.

And unlike it occurring every four years and having to attract the greatest number of people for that limited amount of time, because the season is an annual one, the program could be a developing one. It is only a matter of time before soccer explodes and the networks will regret it if they do not hop on board now.

John Bishop,
Killara, NSW.

A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?

Dear Sir,

What a delight it is to see 10 goals scored in a match and still have one really tight contest between two great sides.

I was shocked when I had heard South Melbourne had got up against Perth Glory but was even more surprised to hear that the result had been 6-4.

Games not only here in Australia but also anywhere in the world needs results like this as it entices the crowd and keeps the game interesting. This is not a criticism of this great game but

too often we are left with dour nil-nil draws that fail to trouble the imagination. But when there are ten goals in a match well then, there is a talking point...

And what about Marconi this round. After what I would call the worst start to any National League season, the sudden acquisition of a new striker and they're scoring huge wins.

Joe Spiteri's debut for the Stallions could not have come at a better time for them. A string of poor results and performances has been put a halt to by a relative has been player who has

probably helped Marconi save their dignity from being utterly destroyed.

This whole round in fact was a very positive sign for soccer in this. Could it be that we are moving away from a belief in defence to an emphasis on attack? Could it also be that last round was the time when it all came together?

It that be the case then everyone involved deserves to be applauded for steering the game in the right direction.

P. Pastrello,
Page, ACT.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

VALID REASONS
FOR SA REJECTION

South Australia and its National Soccer League clubs Adelaide City and West Adelaide have had more than their share of national team representation in previous seasons.

SA has supplied Socceroo captains John Kosmina and Alex Tobin to lead our troops into World Cup action, while Adelaide and its surrounding suburbs have provided green and gold clad players at Olyroo, Youth squad and Joey levels.

That's why it's disappointing to thumb through the latest Australian Under20 squad and not find a single SA player on the 20-man list.

This is not a criticism of national Youth team coach Ange Postecoglou or his ability to assess talent.

The former South Melbourne champion proved when he guided the Australs to the final of the Festival Cup held in Adelaide, that he is an astute judge, juggler and motivator of young players in a tournament situation.

No person who thrilled at the skills of Alex Brosque, Matthew McKay, Massimo Muroccca and Vince Lia, nor the goal-keeping bravery of Tom Willis during the Festival Cup series, would challenge their selection in this Youth squad.

SA had Adam Van Domelle, Adriano Pellegrino and Matthew Deegan in that wonderful series when the Australs did battle with Glasgow Rangers, Ajax, Newcastle United, Bayern Munich,

Juventus, Shandong Luneng and Vasco Da Gama.

As a current member of the Adelaide City squad, Pellegrino could have been considered for the Oceania World Youth qualifying tournament in Vanuatu next month.

But, the Force youngster has not been a NSL regular so far this season, thus his omission is not surprising.

The same can be said of others among the City group who have been overlooked in favour of more experienced trouper.

Adelaide fans, disgruntled by the lack of local players in the Aussie Under 20 squad should seek consolation that sport, like life, goes in cycles

SUMMER SERIES

The proposed Summer Series designed to replace the former Ampol Cup competition has been given the seal of approval by the majority of Premier League clubs.

Blue Eagles chairman Rep Giordano spelt out the proposed format at the SASF Chairman meeting last Wednesday, but two PL clubs were not represented at the gathering.

"It looks as though the competition will go ahead," Giordano said.

"We have faxed all clubs explaining that the top six clubs from last season Raiders, Galaxy, Blue Eagles, Metro Stars, Playford Patriots and Olympic FC would

Ampol Cup series ceased," Giordano said.

As was the case with the long running Ampol Cup (32 seasons) the pre-winter season competition aims to allow coaches the luxury of testing new signings under tough match conditions.

While some State League club representatives have expressed opinions that the suggested new format at Marden is "elitist," there can be no doubt that the summer competition run last year had serious flaws. One major shortcoming was the number of one-sided cricket scores between ill-matched opponents, while many afternoon games were played in oppressive heat.

GALAXY MISSION

New Galaxy coach Alby Kidd leaves our shores next week on a mission to secure a couple of overseas professionals capable of firing the sporting embers of the fans.

Kidd already has clinched key signings in Olympic FC pair Ken Tosh and Danen Bauer.

However, Aaron Westervelt is bound for Para Hills, with another Galaxy star Shane Thompson set to link with promoted Enfield Falcons, while Galaxy and SA defender Mark Yates also is Raiders bound.

Reigning Premier League champions Raiders also will gain Marcin Kierno from Blue Eagles, Lachlan Campbell from Campbelltown Red Devils and ace goalkeeper Robbie Matosevic of the Modbury Jets.

Raiders coach Michael Petrillo is particularly pleased to have recruited 18-year old striker James Forde from the Galaxy, a youngster of immense pedigree and talent.

But, an agreed switch by Para Hills midfielder Mark Moore to The Raiders now is unlikely with the State team player offered a job promotion with a New Zealand company.

New Playford Patriots coach David Miller has been anything but idle, signing Campbelltown City goalkeeper Andy Allen and Jamie Bell from White City Woodville.

BELCONNEN
ANNOUNCES SQUAD

By Graham Cooke

The Belconnen Blue Devils have announced their squad for the 2002-03 NSW Premier League campaign, with coach Lino Fiorese saying he was satisfied with the balance of youth and experience.

He said the inclusion of Clinton Larfield and Michael McKenna in the 21-strong squad showed the Devils' intention to maintain a flow of young players and provide career paths for the youth of the Canberra area.

The first game of the season will be on November 23 at the new McKellar ground when Bonnyrigg White Eagles will be the visitors.

The squad is: Anthony Giannasca (captain), Stephen Kemp, Michael Katz, Elliott Zwangobani, Ivo de Jesus, Adrian Dowling, Stewart Camara, Daniel Camara, Daniel Macor, Matthew Cachia, Jamie Mauro, Oscar Zamora, David Arranz, Marko Perinovic, Lee Pietrukowski, Valerio Galeotti, Clinton Larfield, Andy Rakic, Matthew Valeri, Michael McKenna, Francois Bangwen.

ACT'S AUSTRALIAN STARS

Two of the ACT's best young midfield players are celebrating their inclusion in the Young Socceroos squad to play in the Oceania qualifying series for the 2003 World Youth Championship.

For Carl Valeri it is just another step in a dream rise through the ranks from ACT junior soccer to the ACT Academy of Sport and then on to Italian giant Inter Milan.

He is part of a rapidly forming Canberra soccer dynasty. His father, Walter, was an outstanding young player in the 1970s and early 80s and would certainly have gone on to numerous representative honours if his career had not been cut short by injury.

Carl's elder brother, Matt, was last week named in Lino Fiorese's Belconnen Blue Devils squad for the forthcoming NSW Premier League season.



Carl Valeri: From the nations capital to the glamour of Inter Milan.

Also bound for the Young Socceroos is Dustin Wells, currently playing for Wollongong Wolves, while eight other players with Canberra links through the Australian Institute of Sport squad are Nathan Coe, Franco Parisi, Matthew McKay, Alex Brosque, Jonathan Richter, David Tarka, Wayne Heath and Mark Tsiorlas.

IVAN CENGIC - EAST TIMOR'S NUMBER ONE

By Graham Cooke

A little under two years ago the president of the soon-to-be-independent nation of East Timor, Xanana Gusmao, had just emerged from a meeting into a room crowded with officials, supporters and the media. Suddenly he pointed to a man standing to one side.

"Hey Ivan, if you lose to Indonesia...and he drew a cutting motion across his throat."

"Okay," the man replied. "But if I win I want your job as President of East Timor."

That light-hearted exchange was typical of the unlikely relationship between Gusmao, freedom fighter, politician and world figure, and Ivan 'Cenga' Cengic, a former professional footballer from Croatia who until a couple of seasons ago had set his sights no higher than the Premier Division of the ACT competition.

Today Cengic is the national coach of East Timor, recently reappointed for a two-year term - and possibly the only unpaid official at this level in world football.

"The country is still recovering from the Indonesian occupation - there is no money, hardly any infrastructure, very little equipment," he said. "Clubs and schools throughout Australia have been very generous with donations of balls, uniforms and the like, but even transporting them to East Timor is a problem."

Yet he persists with his vision, one he shares with President Gusmao. "There is so much talent here, natural ability that you would not believe, and the passion for the game is everywhere," he said.

"You can build conditioning, you can teach tactics and team strategies, but you have to be born with talent, and the East Timorese have plenty of it."

"I honestly believe East Timor

has the ability to be the Brazil of South-East Asia. We could dominate this region even with a population of 700,000. I am serious about it."

In the meantime he has to depend on his own resources to travel between Dili and Canberra where his wife, Silva, and three daughters still live. "It is not easy," he said. "I was in charge of the country's under-19 team which won the Arafura Tournament in Darwin when my youngest daughter was born. I didn't see her for two weeks."

"But then Xanana came to me and shook my hand and said 'congratulations, first for your new daughter and also for winning the tournament'."

The two were introduced one summer evening on the balcony of the house of Canberra barrister Bernard Collaery. To the consternation of the other guests they spent the entire time discussing football. An offer to go to East Timor and take up the post of first national coach fol-

lowed.

"Xanana got great solace from the game when he was in jail as a prisoner of the Indonesians," Collaery said.

"He used to kick a football around his exercise yard and when he was granted the privilege of a television set he would watch all the international games and keep up to date with what was going on."

Cengic said he often accompa-

nies the president on tours around remote areas of the country.

"Whenever we come to a community, part of the celebrations are a football match and Xanana plays some of the game in goal," he said. "He's not a bad 'keeper."

"I have a kick as well, but I make sure we're always on the same side."

The coach has also been further afield, making two trips to

South Korea where he has had talks with the country's soccer president, and FIFA vice president, Chung Mong-Joon.

"Obviously we are looking for sponsorship, money is crucial for our development, and we remain hopeful," he said.

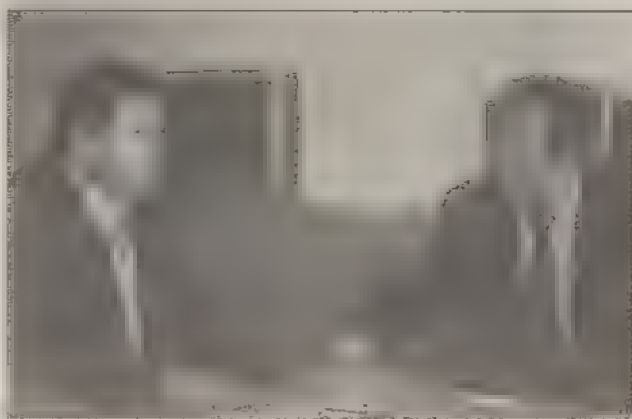
Money is one of the reasons East Timor has decided to go to the Asian Confederation rather than Oceania.

"It wasn't my decision, but I support it," Cengic said. "There's more money, and a lot more to play for. The Asia Cup and the Tiger Cup are huge competitions."

His immediate dream is to establish a training centre at Gleno, less than an hour from Dili, but high up in the hills where mosquitoes are not such a menace.

"At least it's a level playing surface, although there's not much there at the moment except buffaloes grazing," he said.

"But we have to start somewhere."



Ivan Cengic (left) with the President of the Korean Football Association, Chung Mong-Joon.

IVAN ZELIC - ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



By Daniela Raco

The "Zelic" name is synonymous with success. It is embedded in Australian soccer thanks namely to "that goal". IVAN ZELIC's older brother scored that goal. Ivan has worn the younger brother tag far too long.

He has worked just as hard as the next guy, and is a success in his own right. He has remained on home soil, is a professional soccer player, and dabbles in the competitive and bitchy world of modeling.

Ivan is all class. He is the man with pizzazz. He has superior style and creative flair. He is the achilles heal of any squad, and plays smart, attractive soccer.

As I tear him away from the sands of Bondi, and the roadways of Sydney, I speak to Ivan about the over-zealous soccer rumor-mill, the call for Ron Smith to be named as the Head Coach of Australian soccer in the much anticipated soccer re-structure, and Ivan's late-night hunger fix...cinnamon donuts!!

DR: First, let's dispel the rumors...Where are you living and playing this season?

Contrary to rumors, I haven't quit. I am currently based in Sydney and playing with Leichhardt Tigers, and waiting for the Super League to start.

A lot of people came up to me in the off-season asking if I had quit. I broke two bones and tore the ligaments in my foot on February 15 playing with Sydney United in a match against Auckland Kings.

This effectively ruled me out of the game for 6-7 months. I went mad during this period. One minute soccer is my life, and the next minute it's something I can't associate with for half a year. I spent a lot of time sitting around thinking, some good thoughts-some not so good. I was fortunate enough to meet my current girlfriend during this period. I will be forever in her debt for being there for me during the darkest of days.

I was disappointed that United didn't come out to the media and tell everyone what had happened. I was left with the task of explaining to everyone, and it would have saved a lot of grief.

DR: You have recently signed with NSW Premier League out-

fit Leichhardt Tigers. It must feel like home. Many of your old Sydney United squad have made the move across.

One of the main reasons I signed with them was because they're one of the best sides in the League. The added advantage was having the likes of Ante Moric, Zlatko Arambasic, Marcus Stergiopoulos, and Bob Catlin in the side. They add strength to an already strong squad.

DR: How's pre-season going?

It's good to get back into the swing of things. Pre-season training started a couple of weeks ago. I have never missed something so much in my life. One of the happiest days of my life was putting my boots on after 6 months.

DR: Will the squad taste Championship glory this season?

If we don't, there's something wrong

DR: How would you describe yourself as a player?

Smart, with good technique, and a leader.

DR: The injuries were a concern for a while and have put you out of the game for longer than you would have liked. Any nagging worries at the moment?

No, everything is running according to plan. This is a huge relief because for a while the

specialists thought I wouldn't be able to play again. That's probably where the rumors started.

DR: Can you describe your passion for playing?

Before I got injured it was somewhat tainted. I was at United training twice a day, 3 4 days a week. It became a bit monotonous. Sessions weren't as fun as they should have been. I feel like I've now been re-born.

DR: You are the dictionary definition of a "journeyman". Born in Canberra, your soccer travels have taken you from Sydney to Canberra, to Adelaide, to Melbourne, and to Sydney again. Where do you call home?

Wherever there's a home-cooked meal.

DR: Can you describe the city of "Sydney" for us?

Buzzing!

DR: In your time away from home (Canberra) you have shared house (and rent) with other NSL players. Are there any drawbacks from living with fellow players?

The drawbacks are when you come home all you talk about is soccer. People forget that as an athlete it's still your job. I don't go up to hairdressers in a night-club and talk about my hair. Nobody likes to talk about their job away from work.

DR: What will it take for Australia to be World Soccer Champions?

To employ Ron Smith as Head Coach, and clean-out the current board. I totally agree with comments made by Mark Viduka. Everyone that has worked with Ron Smith will tell you the same thing...he's a freak. The best coach we ever had. If every National League club had a Ron Smith, the League would be in a lot better shape.

DR: Is Australian soccer made up of sport lovers rather than soccer lovers?

Soccer lovers. With the current situation the League is in, it is not even worth the admission



Leichhardt Tigers new recruit for this season.

fee to watch soccer. The League needs an overhaul. We know we can produce players; it's time we look at the coaches and get professionals from overseas out here.

DR: Is the talent drain harming the local game?

We have the players, we need the coaching staff.

DR: In the year 2000, you were voted among "Cleo" magazines "50 most eligible bachelors". Do you hold any hopes for future polls?

"Australia's best dressed"!

DR: What league do you rate as the world's best?

The Spanish League. It's the most colourful League in the world, and their achievements over the last few years speak for themselves.

DR: If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it be?

Bayern Munich. I love German soccer.

DR: Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

Nobody. God gives you a gift and you use it. You either have it, or you don't.

DR: What are the qualities of a good coach?

To be an overall communicator, and a teacher. Players need to walk away from each and every session knowing they have learnt something

DR: Who is the funniest character in the game today?

Vince "Scruffy Murphy" Savoca. He's a character.

DR: Who is the last person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?

Zoran Matic, Branko Culina, and the entire Melbourne Knights Board (World War III)!

DR: If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

I'd do the same things all over again. The experiences in life shape you as a person. Good or bad, it's still an experience.

DR: What is your favorite late-nite snack?

Cinnamon donuts.

DR: If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?

Antonio Sabato Jr, because that guy's a gun.

DR: Who would you trade places with for a day?

God!

DR: What is the best ingredient for a good night out?

Laughter, great company, and good food.

DR: Best hangover cure?

A burger with the lot.

DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

My skills are fairly limited - but I can cook a mean steak.

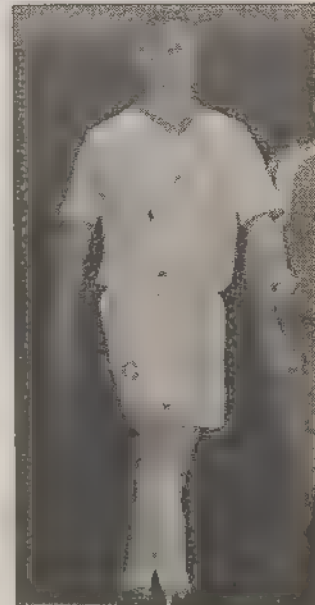
DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?

I get that all the time, but they never tell me who it is.

DR: If you were invisible what's the first place you would sneak into?

The New Zealand Women's Rugby Union team's dressing room at half-time. Nice and sweaty.

DR: Who or what inspires you?



Ivan shown parading the 2000 Olympic strip.

Everybody inspires me since I've been injured.

DR: Are you the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

The last. These days because I have to ice my foot.

DR: What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

We had a blackout and the alarm clock didn't go off.

DR: Do you know of any pre-match mishaps (missing players, two left boots, etc)?

No shin pads and putting toilet paper in my socks to make it look like shin pads.

DR: Do you have any bad habits?

Impatience and telling bad jokes. And there are others that I just can't mention.

DR: Favourite holiday destination?

"Hugo's Lounge" in Kings Cross.

DR: What animal (or thing) best describes your personality?

A "Rubik's cube", because you never know what the hell is happening

DR: Do you have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?

My fashion sense - knowing what goes with what.

DR: If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?

The ability to heal people, and cure illnesses.

DR: Do you follow any pre-match rituals?

I used to, but it's all rubbish.



Strike a pose, Ivan Zelic in one of his model shots.

Young Socceroos Announced

By Mark Stavroulakis

A strong U20 Australian squad was named last week as coach Ange Postecoglou sets his sights in guiding his young chargers to next years World Cup held in the United Arab Emirates in late March.

The squad will assemble for a couple of camps

before jetting off to Vanuatu in December for the Oceania Qualifiers.

Out of the whole squad, six overseas-based Australians have been selected to return to Australia for the Oceania qualifiers.

The squad will be going into camp in Melbourne on

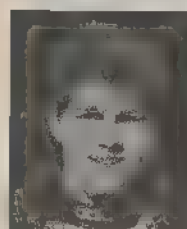
December 1st before departing for Port Vila on December 4th.

The Young Socceroos will play only two matches in their qualifying group (Group A) due to the late withdrawal of the Cook Islands.

Ange's squad takes on Vanuatu on the 7th of

December before finishing off with Papua New Guinea on the ninth.

The winner of Group A will playoff against the winner of Group B in a home and away format scheduled to be held on December 19th (away) and December 22nd in Melbourne.



Nathan Coe
(Inter Milan - Italy - GK - 18)

Nathan was part of the U17 Joey side that took part in the '2000 World Cup held in Trinidad & Tobago. Coe had a terrific tournament and ended up winning a spot in the World XI squad at the conclusion of the Mundial.

Before jetting off to Inter, young Coe was part of the Brisbane Strikers and had graduated through the AIS.



Mark Valeri
(Inter Milan - Italy - MF - 18)

Having captained the U17 Jokeys side in '2000, Valeri has been one of the best products ever to leave the shores of Australia. A product of the AIS, Valeri has also gained the attention of Socceroo coach Frank Farina. A player to certainly watch out for

in the future



Brett Holman
(Excelsior - Holland - 18 - FW)

Probably the standout of the bunch, Holman has starred in the Dutch First Division with on-loan club Excelsior this season. The former Parramatta Power star signed a four-year deal with Feyenoord this year and from all reports is tipped to be one of

Australia's most promising youngsters abroad.



Dustin Wells
(Wollongong Wolves - MF - 19)

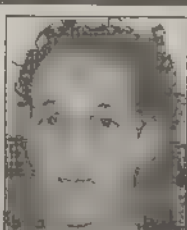
Dustin has been renowned as being one of the Wolves most consistent players in the mid-field, the hardworking star has also been a player that has made a name for himself as a starter at the South Coast Club this year



Alex Wilkinson
(Northern Spirit - DF - 18)

Known for being one of the tallest in the current U20 squad, young Wilkinson had made a great impact in Lawrie McKinna's first team squad this season. After spending a rather quiet season in the youth side last year, young 'Wilko' has been

given his missed chances under new management this season and has started in almost every match. Alex was also part of the U17 World Cup squad in '2000.



Franco Parisi
(Olympic Sharks - FW - 19)

After returning from his overseas stint in Holland and having had trials in Italy and England, Parisi has settled in with last year's grand-finalists the Olympic Sharks.

Yet another AIS product, Parisi has started a few times for the Sharks and has notched up a couple of goals for the club. Known for his impact presence on the pitch.



Matthew Osman
(Northern Spirit - DF - 19)

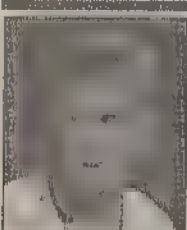
Yet another new inclusion to Lawrie McKinna's squad, Osman has played numerous times for the Spirit this season as a defender.

Matthew has come on a couple of times as a substitute and has been likened to a new-age defender with his over-lapping runs.



Wayne Heath
(Brisbane Strikers - DF - 19)

The Strikers young defender has been one of Kossle's finds of the year. With Brisbane's lack of depth this season, look for Heath to play an instrumental role in gaining that much needed match experience



Daniel Piorkowski
(Melbourne Knights - DF - 18)

A member of the U20 Austral side that took part in this season's Festival Cup held in Adelaide, Daniel has been part of the Knights defence this season. Known for his superiority in the air, young Piorkowski has also

made quite an impact under player/manager Andrew Marth



Matthew McKay
(Brisbane Strikers - MF - 19)

A player likened to a 'pit-bull', Matthew is a hardworking midfielder who has staked a spot in John Kosmina's side this season. Having been brought from the AIS last season, McKay was also part of the Austral side this year.



Jonathan Richter
(Northern Spirit - MF - 19)

'Jonty' was bought from the AIS this season and was considered by McKinna as a fringe first team player until the tenacious midfielder impressed the Spirit coaching staff at pre-season. Known as a utility player by McKinna, Richter has certainly

been one of the Spirit's finds this season.



Tom Willis
(Newcastle United - GK - 19)

Willis has been tipped by goal-keeping experts as being one of the custodians to watch out for. Yet to make an appearance for Newcastle this season, Tom has time on his side and it will only be a matter of time until we all see the brilliance of

the Darwin born star



Spase Dilevski
(PSV Eindhoven - Holland - DF - 17)

A VHS graduate, Spase was also part of the '2000 Jokeys squad. Soon after the World Cup, the youngster was snapped up by Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven and has been playing with the Youth side ever since



Scott McDonald
(Southampton - England - FW - 19)

Having already represented the U20's in the previous campaign, McDonald will be one of the main players in this season's squad. Having just recently returned from a loan period at First Division club Huddersfield, McDonald is hoping to sneak

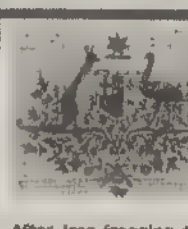
into Gordon Strachan's first team squad by the end of the season. This will be his third World Cup.



Michael Baird
(South Melbourne - FW - 19)

Having been tipped as being one of Queensland's most talented youngsters, Baird left the Brisbane Strikers to join South Melbourne this season under new coach Danny Wright. Michael has impressed many on-lookers, his pace and ability to

beat players has earned the striker plaudits from many officials this season.



Mark Tsiolias
(FC Utrecht - Holland - FW - 19)

An unknown striker to most Australian observers, Tsiolias was part of the AIS a few seasons back and also played in the Victorian Premier League.

After leap-frogging the National League, Tsiolias was snapped up by Dutch club FC Utrecht where he's currently playing in the youth squad.



Massimo Marcon
(South Melbourne - MF - 18)

Mass' was one of South Melbourne's finds of the season last year after playing a notable role in the clubs resurgence towards the top six. The diminutive midfielder has had his time limited this season after South

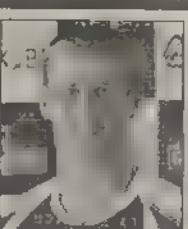
lured the services of Billy Damianos however has been regarded as being one of Australia's most talented players.



Alex Brosque
(Marconi Stallions - FW - 19)

Marconi's golden boy, Brosque has already made a name for himself in this seasons National League bagging a few goals for Raul Blanco's squad. The silky striker has already been

penned as one of the players to continue the exodus of young-sters moving off to overseas clubs in the not too distant future



David Tarka
(Perth Glory - DF - 19)

'Tarks' was brought to the Glory from the AIS midway through last year and immediately made an impact with the Premiers starting almost every game. The no nonsense defender has played in almost every Glory match this season and is tipped

for greater things in his footballing career.



Vince Lia
(South Melbourne - MF - 17)

The 'baby' of the squad, at 17 Lia has been South Melbourne's rising star so far this year.

Having had notable performances for his club, young Lia has certainly turned some heads with his attacking style of play this year.

THE STALLIONS NEW 'SPITFIRE'

By Mark Stavroulakis

Round six of the National League had concluded and Marconi had yet to notch up its first win of the season.

Injuries to key players such as Angelo Costanzo, former U20 International striker Kevo Gulesarian and the more recent injury to Robbie Enes left coach Raul Blanco no options with replacing these key men, however one man recently stepped in filling a certain void in the squad.

The Stallions had one major problem and that was putting away goals. Young Alex Brosque was on a high after the first few rounds, however an injury kept the current U20 International rather quiet.

Flown from Melbourne, former Socceroo striker Joe Spiteri stepped in as Marconi's hopeful saviour as quoted by Stallions coach Blanco.

The transfer of Spiteri was billed on the cards at the start of the season for the Stallions, however complications bit the striker that forced him to miss the opening rounds of the National League.

"After a failed bid to sign for Belgian club Westerlo, I spoke extensively with some National League clubs (Marconi, Melbourne Knights & Sydney United). I thought that the Stallions deal was the better option however the transfer did take its time, as what was actually promised to

me didn't really eventuate. The club were trying to get a few things in order for my transfer to go through so I missed the start of the National League season, which was rather disappointing. I'm happy now that everything has settled and that I can now strive for the best for my new club."

The former Melbourne Knights player has signed a three-month deal with Marconi, the reason being that the striker could make the move to an overseas club in the near future. In saying this, if this does not eventuate, a possible extension to his Stallions contract till the end of the season will definitely be on the cards.

"It's a short term contract as I'm still looking to go overseas. I've got a few options in the new-year. A few opportunities in Norway and China have arisen but it's still all talk, but as for the moment I'm looking towards staying with the Stallions for the whole season."

In a start that could have featured in any fairytale story, the 'Spitfire' made an immediate impact with his new club.

Notching up two goals in his debut match against the Brisbane Strikers and also giving his new side their first ever three points was a great achievement.

"After watching the Stallions play a couple of games, I knew the club was attack orientated, however they did lack

an aggressive striker. They have played some great football during the season, knocking the ball around nicely and I guess all went to a tee in Brisbane. If it wasn't for a lack of fitness with a few of the lads we could have scored more goals against the Strikers. The two goals though was an excellent start to my career at the club and I'm hoping that this is a sign of more goals to come for the club."

The 29-year-old believes that the Stallions do have a great chance in finishing in the top six and knows that with the acquisitions of Costanzo and Enes, will boost both his and the clubs performance on a whole.

"Like I stated earlier, the club has played some great football but has failed to hit the back of the net and I guess that's why they've brought me in. I'm confident that the side can string a few big results in coming fixtures and move right up into the top six. We still have Angelo and Robbie to come back and you could imagine what the side would look like once these guys return. These

players in my mind are two of the best midfielders in Australia. I for one will be rubbing my hands once both guys return to the pitch as I know they will provide me with the service I'm after, I can't wait."

Stallions coach Raul Blanco and Chief of Football Rale Rasic have been no strangers to Spiteri's game as the pair

have coached the gun striker in previous seasons.

"I was under Rale Rasic at Parramatta Melita and I've been coached by Raul whilst his time with the Australian side so both coaches know me really well. Both have been in the game for quite a while now and I've seen their coaching first hand and really liked the way they do things. I guess that in itself influenced me to make the move to the Stallions.

After completing his first aim in settling into his new house in Sydney's west, the experienced striker pencilled in a few more for the remainder of the year hoping that success and good luck will come the Melbourne's way.

"I'm always looking to better myself and hoping to finish the season off with Marconi. Also guiding them to the finals and scoring as many goals as possible for the club would be another goal of mine. An overseas move is also on the agenda but at the moment, I'm content in doing well for Marconi."

Finally the 'Spitfire' has also not ruled out a possible chance in donning the green and gold of Australia once more.

"I'm 29 and hoping to get back into the National side. It seems that being in Europe I didn't get recognized as much as playing here in Australia. My biggest goal is to play for my country and would love to do it once more. Who knows if I keep hitting the score sheets I might be noticed once again.



Scoring goals and guiding the Stallions to the finals is the 'Spitfire's' main aim this year.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002/03

Australian Institute of Sport .2 Newcastle United1

By Graham Cooke

Two dead-ball strikes by Matt Anstey saw the Australian Institute of Sport home 2-1 against Newcastle United in Canberra on Saturday night and move closer to their accustomed place at the top of the National Youth League.

However, coach Steve O'Connor said the present squad was not in the same tradition as many of those of the past. "There's a great deal of difference from the days when we would rattle up 100 goals in a season," he said. "We won't be doing that but we are developing into a team that battles for the full 90 minutes, it's beginning to become apparent from the number of times we are scoring important goals late in the game."

Saturday's winner came in the 88th minute, not quite as late as the recent stoppage time scramble home against Marconi, but long enough into the match to produce a burst of relief both on and off the pitch.

It was a goal worth waiting for. With a free-kick gained a couple of metres outside the penalty area, Anstey spent time carefully arranging his teammates for a lob over the top of the wall, then whacked a vicious, dipping shot that crashed past goalkeeper Mitchell O'Brien into the top of the net.

Almost the entire match separated that effort from Anstey's first goal - a third minute penalty struck efficiently into the net after referee Damian Johnson judged Newcastle defender Josh Mitchell had fouled Mark Nedeljkovic in the area.

fired in a low drive which goalkeeper Adam Fedencic failed to see before it was under him and into the net.

Fortunes fluctuated after that. Newcastle looked the more likely for the remainder of the first half, but the AIS dominated much of the play in the second. They were awarded another penalty in the 63rd minute, but this time Nick Stavroulakis sent his shot over the top, scraping the crossbar on the way. It was his second penalty miss of the season, but O'Connor refused to be critical afterwards.

Nick is one of the few players who puts his hand up when a penalty has to be taken, others hide," he said. "It's some thing we are going to have to work on." Newcastle, who had a nightmare journey to Canberra, arriving an hour late after bush fires blocked a section of the Hume Highway, actually finished stronger and Adam Hughes came close to an equaliser with a stoppage time shot which hit the crossbar.

Couch David Lowe said he thought his team did enough to get a point. "The institute is a quality side, but although there were not many chances, we should have done better with the ones we had," he said. O'Connor said the game had been fairly physical, but he was happy referee Johnson had allowed it to flow.

AIS: Fedencic, Wolfenden, Lilly, Giffender, Downes, Musialik, Ceszko, Anstey, Stavroulakis, Casey, Nedeljkovic. No substitutes used.

Newcastle United: O'Brien, Davelaar, McPherson, Mensah (Wallace 62), Hughes, Johnson, Wilson, Poole (Ciarrocchi 76), Mitchell, McPherson (Kennedy 53), Boogaard.

Referee: Damian Johnson
Crowd: 75.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-03 NORTHERN DIVISION - RESULTS RD 8

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2002

Parramatta Power Youth 6 QAS 3

Marconi Stallions Youth 2 Newcastle United 1

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2002

Wollongong Wolves Youth 2 Northern Spirit Youth 1

Olympic Sharks Youth 1 Sydney United Youth 4

Marconi Stallions Youth 1 Canberra Deakin 1

BYE ACTAS

BYE - Marconi Stallions Colts

LADDER - ROUND 8

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	8	4	2	1	2	22	9	14
Wollongong Wolves Youth	6	4	2	2	0	8	5	14
Marconi Stallions Youth	6	3	3	2	1	9	3	13
Sydney United Youth	6	4	0	1	2	15	10	13
Northern Spirit Youth	3	1	1	3	6	5	6	6
Olympic Sharks Youth	6	2	2	0	3	8	12	9
Marconi Stallions Colts	6	2	1	2	3	8	7	7
Newcastle United Youth	6	1	1	2	4	8	6	6
ACTAS	1	1	2	2	6	8	4	4
QAS	6	1	0	1	5	9	24	3
Marconi Mustangs	6	0	1	1	6	2	19	1

FIXTURES - ROUND 9

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2002

ACTAS v AIS

Newcastle United Youth v Marconi Stallions Youth

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2002

Northern Spirit Youth v Olympic Sharks Youth

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2002

Canberra Deakin v Parramatta Power Youth

Marconi Mustangs v Wollongong Wolves Youth

BYE - Sydney United Youth

BYE - QAS

NYL WRAP-UP

Parramatta Power recorded the biggest victory of the National Youth League weekend by trouncing QAS six-two at Parramatta Stadium last Saturday afternoon.

Power first grader Johnny Buonavoglia scored four goals while young striker Michael Bridge scored a brace in their huge win over their younger counterparts.

The Wollongong Wolves notched up an important win over the Northern Spirit youth by winning two-nil at WIN Stadium.

Goals from Leighal Dellis and gap striker John Majarovski ensured Eddie Tesoro's side the three points pushing the squad to third spot on the ladder.

In the local Sydney derby, the Olympic Sharks were torn apart from a confident Sydney United youth squad four win to push Tony Pezzano's side to fifth spot.

Daniel Watkins was in sparkling form scoring a hat-trick while Andrew Lizar notched up United's other goal to hand the Sharks their third loss of the season.

Finally the Marconi Stallions youth side were held to a one-all draw by leaders Canberra Deakin.

Mark Milne scored first for the Stallions while Nathan Caldwell gave Deakin a vital point with an 80-minute strike.

ACTAS and the Marconi Mustangs played out the bye.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

WOLVES ON THE MEND

Listening to strikers Naum Sekulovski and skipper Stuart Young, both believe a place in the top six is possible. Patience is the word most used and results must fall their way eventually.

On the injury front, David Cervinski should recover from a niggly injury, Robbie Stanton is still being hampered by groin problems and youngster Jacob Timpano has strained his foot and could be out for another week or so.

Luckily coach Ron Corry has the depth to cover any position, his main concern is the lack of support up front, not enough chances are being converted, forcing him to rethink his attacking options. The fans are hoping of an explosion of firepower by their team soon. The aim at present is to work on chances with diligence. One must learn to accept lows to experience highs in football fortunes.

Young Soccerroo - Dustin Wells. A regular in the first grade this season, the youngster has been called up to the Australian U/20 squad to contest for the forthcoming qualification matches for the 2003 World Youth Championship. This selection in the national team is a first for the 19-year old mid-field player.



Port Kembla's long serving coach Adrian Alston.

Illawarra Soccer - New coaching appointments have been announced by ICVU Premier League clubs Wollongong Olympic Peter Beggs, Tarravanna - Phil Carr, Cronulla Lions - Eric Thompson, Dapto - Stuart Beedie while Albion Park WE have confirmed rookie coach Steve Micevski as their team leader.

Port Kembla's Adrian Alston is going into his 11th coaching season with the soccer club and is set to establish a unique record in holding the same coaching position in Illawarra.

The remaining Premier League clubs still have to confirm their coaching staff.

AMATEURS STRUGGLE WITH RISING PREMIUMS

By Peter Damalas

In the friendly match between Manchester United and the Soccerroos in 1999, a tackle by striker Andy Cole threatened to end the playing career of Simon Colosimo.

But who is liable for this action? The player, the club, or the organizers of the event?

Serious issues such as club/ player liability and insurance came to the fore with the threat of litigation.

While football around the world (especially in Europe) is being managed like a business, there are many who are calling for sports insurance to be handled in a more professional manner.

Managing Director of SportsCover, one of the leading sports insurance underwriters, Mr. Peter Nash, described the current liability situation as a "challenge rather than a crisis".

"Since the early 1990s, the populace have become more aware of their rights and are seeking redress" he said. Mr. Nash also mentioned the collapse of HIH Insurance and the events of September 11 as having a major impact on the issue.

The increase in the amount of lawsuits pertaining to sports related incidents can only be considered on a cultural level, rather than an economic one, according to SportsCover's Managing Director.

"Take English soccer as an example. When Stanley Matthews was playing, he would never have considered taking a player to court. Look at how Pele was treated by European teams trying to slow him down".

"Nowadays, with one's livelihood at stake,

we have the Roy Keane court saga all over the papers" Mr. Nash said.

The rise in premiums and the liability debate has far reaching effects (such as the cancellation of events and the rise in ticket prices), while amateur sports clubs, associations and athletes are finding it difficult on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Bob Caine, General Manager of



Shown above is the unfortunate incident involving Soccerroo Simon Colosimo against Manchester United that left the player seriously injured.

Worldwide Sports Insurance (WWSI) has reiterated the need for strategy and order in the sports industry.

"Sports ventures are being run by volunteers. The expertise is not there to run sports clubs as professional entities" he said.

Risk Management procedures have been put into place to assist with insurance payments. These help identify risks for individuals and organizations through extensive analysis.

"Clubs are facing tough times at the moment dealing with insurance requirements, including liability, professional indemnity, player accident and property" he said.

South Melbourne Football Club have been involved with WWSI as one of its clients.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRO

Nige and Fergy here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarro. Every week we're going to give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

Sweet FA Changes

The wacky world of the English FA, especially surrounding football resignations, has always been one of contradictions and back tracking. This week has seen some pretty strange goings on. Whatever is

going to happen to our dear old Swedish Sven, the saviour of our footballing nation? With all the debating over his allegiances to Adam Crozier he must be in danger of losing the ice cool persona and slicked back widows peak hair-do that made him so attractive to Unobtainable Ulrika.

Alright, so Adamski has been forced out. Rumours are, it was a raging debate with FA

Chairman Geoff Thompson as to whether to order 2 or 3 boxes of staples for the FA head office. Apparently Geoff had never forgiven the ex advertising wiz kid for 3 months previously, insisting on tandoori prawn sandwiches in the FA canteen instead of Geoff's favourites, traditional mast cow and horse-raddish.

Seaman's had the Chop

It's finally happened, David 'big girly pants' Seaman has had the chop. Unfortunately for most England fans and, we dare say, many Arsenal fans not from the England team, David has only chopped off his hair, and only a bit of it at that. Seaman's new look is rumoured to resemble a David Gola style bob, with all the Gallic flair that the French nancy used to have.

Under Crowding

Ex Premiership minnows turned heroes, plucky Wimbledon FC have just broken crowd records this week. Unfortunately for Wimbledon, and worryingly for their accounts, the record they broke was the lowest ever crowd for a first division game. The mighty gathering assembled this week and were witness to Wimbledon's first win in 7 games. The crowd low broke the previous record, which incidentally was also held by Wimbledon, of 2,077. What



Premiership Bizarro

was the number of the people at this multitudinous gathering? 849. And 227 of them were Rotherham fans. Finally, in the footballing hotbed that is Madagascar two teams, AS Adema and S.O.E.

Fought out a bitterly close league match. The final score AS Adema 149 - S.O.E. 0.

Apparently the S.O.E. manager had a bit of a Barney at one of the Ref's decision's only 2 minutes after kick off. In protest S.O.E.'s players were told to kick the ball into their own net to score an own goal as often as possible. The team managed to score 149 own goals in the 90 minutes available. The AS Adema players stood around smiling talking about cars and girls (apparently).

See you next week.
Nige and Fergy

The Bizarro Boys Nige And Fergy

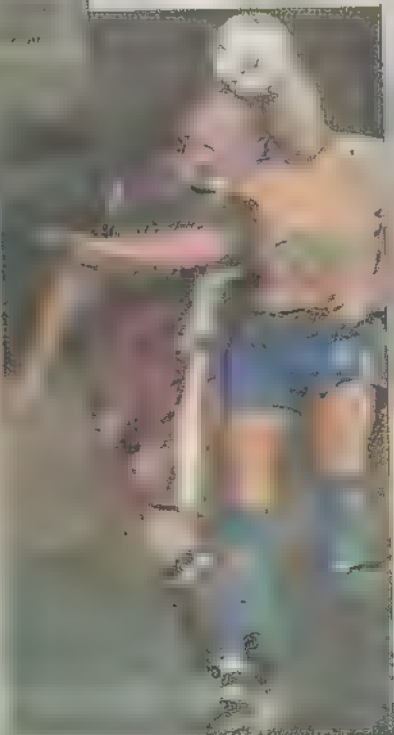
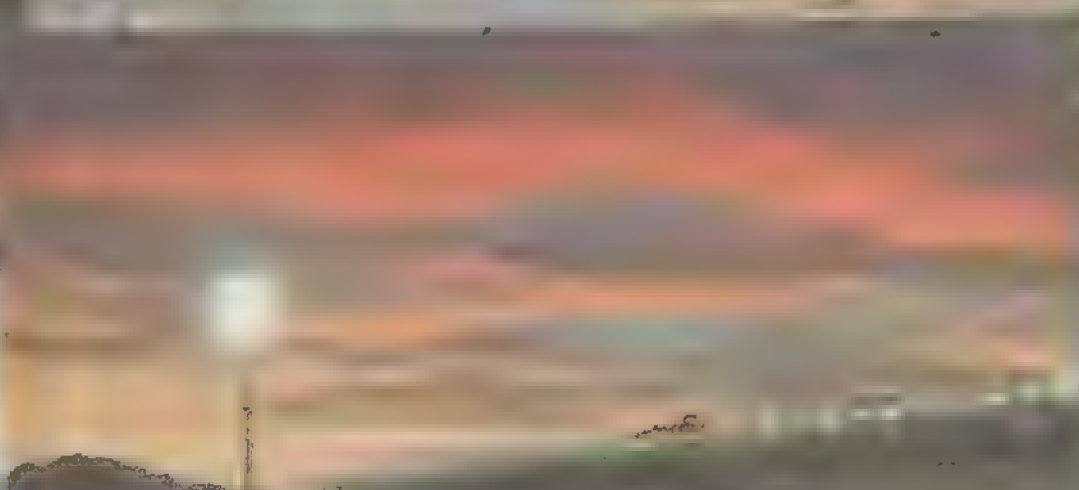
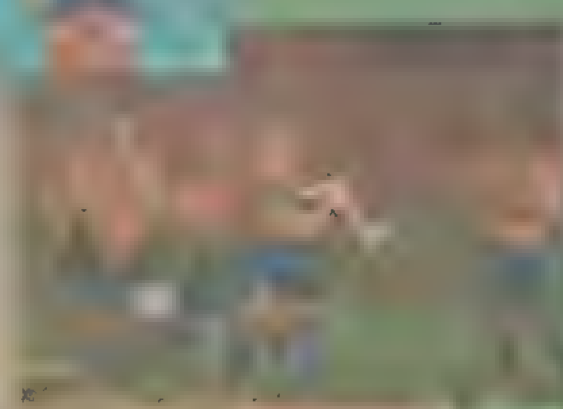
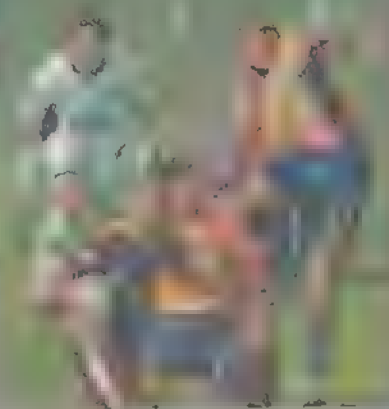
To catch Nige and Fergy on Premiership Bizarro, their internet TV show, go to www.bananatv.com. And click on Premiership Soccer. New episodes added each week. Don't miss it.



National League Action Between Parramatta Power vs Brisbane Strikers



**Photos by
Carlos Furtado**





National League Action Between Marconi Stallions vs Football Kingz

PHOTOS BY
Carlos Fernandez



National League Round 8 Report

Melbourne Knights Newcastle United

By Alan Clark

A goal at the start and end of the first half was enough for Melbourne Knights to defeat Newcastle United two-nil at Knights Stadium on Sunday evening. The win continues Knights' unbeaten run in this

year's campaign in the lead-up to next week's Melbourne derby game against South Melbourne.

Anthony Pelikan celebrated his call-up by under-20 national coach Ange Postecoglou with a goal at the start of the game but left the pitch through injury shortly afterwards.

Imported striker Leon

Buhic, making only his second start this year after injuring himself in Knights' first game of the season, netted the second just before the interval.

"Leon made a huge difference for us," said Knights' player-coach Andrew Marth after the game. "He blew out of steam at the end. (Buhic) only trained one week and he looked very sharp." Marth had preferred to return Buhic to the strike-force over Adrian Cervinski who played youth football instead.

Apart from a period mid way through the second half, Newcastle seemed second-

best across the park. United coach Ian Crook wanted to see the tape before he felt prepared to analyse what went wrong for his side. "It's difficult sometimes. You get a different picture when you watch it again."

I felt we were fine between both boxes, but (Knights) was a bit more desperate than us in the two (penalty) areas... where the game is won or lost."

Pelikan had netted in the second minute after an error by Newcastle goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame who let a cross from the left slip through his hands. Beltrame had taken the pace off the ball and it fell right to the

youngster's feet no more than three metres from the goal-line. Pelikan blasted low into the net despite the presence on the line of Scott

Baillie who was powerless to intervene.

It was to prove Pelikan's first and last involvement in the game as shortly after he was receiving attention on the touchline, and after just fifteen minutes was substituted for Henry Fa'arodo.

Marth was critical of Pelikan's insistence in coming off. "I think it was a bit of a heart-string, to be honest. He scored a goal and thought he'd done enough. We'll address the situation during the week."

Beltrame made up for this error five minutes before the break, saving sharply from a Fa'arodo header aimed low after a cross from the right.

But Beltrame had no chance in stopping a bullet header at the near-post from Buhic after Knights took a quick free-kick just before the

interval following a foul on Fa'arodo by Robbie Middleby 30 metres out. Lubo Lapsansky played the ball to Daniel Vasilevski wide on the right.

Vasilevski's cross was whipped into Buhic at the six-yard line, catching Newcastle completely cold.

Lapsansky had a golden opportunity to seal the game with just five minutes remaining when he skipped by Andy Roberts to face only Beltrame and with Xhezair Sulemani in support, but his weak effort at chipping Beltrame was easily blocked, then scrambled clear.

The loss was Newcastle's fourth on the road and that record displeased Crook. "It's something we're going to have to correct, and correct quickly."



Knights lively young striker Anthony Pelikan scored his side's first goal in their two-nil win over Newcastle United last week.

BAD BOYS OF THE WEEK



MICHAEL BAIRD (South Melbourne)

It was an up and down week for young 19-year-old South Melbourne striker Michael Baird.

During the start of the week, South Melbourne's sharpshooter gained an U20 call-up for the Young Socceroos as Baird played an instrumental role in bringing down the Sharks two weeks ago by scoring a double in their six-four win at home.

However, wherever there's joy, pain is only just around the corner and Michael experienced that last Sunday afternoon after he was shown a red card for stomping on City veteran Auerlio Vidmar in the 24th minute.

With one man down, the Force took full control of the situation defeating Danny Wright's side four-nil convincingly.

Time however is on the youngster's side who will only learn from this mistake but soccer followers know that the former Brisbane Strikers star will bounce back to form in no time.

Round 10 Fixtures

SATURDAY 23/11

Brisbane Strikers v Football Kingz
Olympic Sharks v Perth Glory

SUNDAY 24/11

South Melbourne v Marconi Stallions
Adelaide City Force v Northern Spirit
Parramatta Power v Newcastle United
Melbourne Knights v Sydney United
Bye - Wollongong Wolves

FROM THE

Dressing Sheds

By Mark Stavroulakis

Starting off this week's issue of 'From the dressing sheds', it was pleasing to see two National League clubs upgrade their web-site services last week.

A few weeks ago, a thorough guide on which National League club had a good Internet site was printed in ABSW and found out that three of the twelve clubs were either not updated or did not have one.

Newcastle United was one club who now have a really in-depth site that goes into a lot of detail on the club itself, the players, the youth etc.

Also the Marconi Stallions have upgraded their services and have put together a nice little site.

The only club remaining now is the Adelaide City Force who has yet to do anything!

Hopefully in forth coming editions of 'from the dressing sheds', the Force would have put together something on the worldwide web!

Losing weight and keeping trim is always a tough task to do once the National League season is over. It was no secret that David 'Shovel' Cervinski gained a bit of weight during the off-season however having watched him recently, the signs are evident that he has lost weight. Cervinski has also been in great form of late so everything is coming on nicely for the Wolves defender.

Amidst reports that soccer 'powerhouse' Argentina were set for a international friendly against the Socceroos next year, Middle Eastern country Syria have trumped the

Aussie's offer by splurging a reported two million dollars to play one match.

The deal with the 'Argies has not finished yet but it would take a strong offer to lure the Ortega's, Batistuta's, Crespo's and co down-under!

More on the Mark Bosnich issue this week has seen the Chelsea custodian rise in ranks of being one of the highest paid players in the Premier League. English newspaper the 'Sunday Times' has seen 'Bozza' jump five places to 358 after earning over 50,000 pounds a week.

It's been reported that the former Manchester United number one has been training on his own after a bust-up with coach Claudio Ranieri - certainly not a first but the club expects to off-load Mark when the transfer window re-opens in January next year.

Word around Sydney town has it that a prominent Olympic Sharks player had a recent bust-up with coach Garry Phillips.

After being ousted from the squad that lost to South Melbourne six-four in Melbourne, the unnamed player took a swipe at Phillips for not being in the travelling squad.

An amazing statistic over Round 7 that saw a phenomenal week of goals scored (29 in fact), has seen that round jump into the history books of Soccer Australia as the fifth highest average of goals scored per game!

An average of 4.8 goals per game was seen during that round. Shown below is a top five table rating of the highest goals averaged during a National League season.

ROUND	GOALS	GAMES	AVE GOALS PER GAME
R30 2000/01	41	7	5.9
R30 1999/00	40	8	5.0
R23 2000/01	34	7	4.9
R20 1999/00	34	7	4.9
R 20/02/03	29	6	4.8

One obvious theme that was evident in the recently picked Young Socceroos squad has been the amount of players that have come through the ranks of the AIS.

The list of graduates reads: Nathan Coe, Carl Valeri, Franco Parisi, Matthew McKay, Alex Brosque, Jonathan Richter, David Tarka, Dustin Wells, Wayne Heath and Mark Tsiortas. A total of 10 from a squad of twenty chosen has seen Australia's best institute reap in the rewards of developing future Socceroos.

The Australian soccer players union led by PFA Chief Executive Brendan Schwab had come into the media forum last week insisting that the Union is willing to accept 12-months without a National League competition.

Blaming the continuing uncertainty over Soccer Australia's finances and the TV rights deal with channel seven, Schwab has stated that a reform must kick-off for the 2004-05 National League season.

The million-dollar question though is what will all the National League players do with a 12-month lay-off?

In any sport, missing a week could be disastrous for any player but missing a year playing in a competition could be the end of many hopeful soccer players careers in this country.

It's understandable that the code is suffering at the moment however it must protect its products being the players themselves - without them, the league would not exist.

It's good to see Sharks coach Gary Phillips putting his hand up in registering as a National League player for the club this season. Due to the club's recent run of injuries, Phillips, 37, will be eligible to play for Olympic if more injuries continue.

Tony Franken has done the same at the Glory after also registering himself as Glory's second keeper after Vince Matassa injured his hand in a

Round 9 Fixtures

FRIDAY 15/11

Football Kingz v Parramatta Power
Newcastle United v Marconi Stallions
Northern Spirit v Olympic Sharks

SUNDAY 17/11

Perth Glory v Wollongong Wolves
South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights
Sydney United - Adelaide City Force
Bye Brisbane Strikers

bizarre accident that left him second best with a bookshelf.

South Coach Danny Wright was wearing an interesting tie during the Olympic - South Melbourne clash.

Asked about its origins at the press conference by ABSW's Brendon

Davis, Wright confirmed it is the 1990/91 Grand Final tie. "Being a touch superstitious, I wore it for good luck tonight - and it worked!" said Wright after their emphatic 4-1 four win over last seasons Grand-Final winners.

It seems as though Marconi's new signing Joe Spiteri has been pretty much the hero of the squad after scoring yet another double to gift the Stallions a two-one victory over the Football Kingz.

Four goals in two matches for Spiteri could well grab the attention of many officials around Australia.

Spiteri mentioned in an ABSW exclusive this week that he still wants to play for the Socceroos and at 29 thinks that it is still possible to don the green and gold jersey.

With more performances like this, there's not telling where Joe could end up.

Frank take note the 'Spitfire' is on the loose.

Let's see if Spiteri can notch up another brace against Newcastle United this week?

It was pleasing to see

Football Kingz striker Harry Ngata on the score sheet over the weekend after the Kiwi striker had failed to score since his four-goal haul against the Northern Spirit.

It brings the Kingz star's tally to five goals for the season.

While we're on the goal front, he took his time to bag a debut goal and behold, Power striker Pablo Cardozo managed to do it last Saturday night.

Scoring from the spot kick, 'Pabz' unfortunately injured himself and was substituted two minutes later and is expected to be out for it at least a month.

It's interesting to see Eddie Krncevic present at a couple of National League matches so far this season, one must comment as to what will Eddie be doing in the near future.

Sources close to ABSW have stated that a possible coaching move to Asia is on the cards for the ex-South Melbourne mentor.

Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was one relieved man last week after his chargers defeated the Strikers two-nil to edge his side closer towards the top six.

A loss for Parramatta could have pinned the side to bottom place on the National League ladder however for the second week running, John Kosmin's side takes up the fruitful position of the tail end of the competition.

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2002/2003



NSW Premier League

Goalkeeper of the Year



NSW Premier League



Jason Holmes
(Parramatta Eagles)

Last week, we focused on the many chances for this seasons Golden Boot Award, this week, we take a look at the goalkeepers and main contenders for the prestigious Goalkeeper of the Year award.

The current crop of 'keepers in the Premier League looks to be one of the best in living memory. With previous award winners John Crawley (Blacktown City), Fernando Greco (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Darren Moore (Fairfield Bulls) and Jason Holmes (Parramatta Eagles), all showing good early season form, this years award looks to be wide open.

It will be interesting to see how last years winner Jason Holmes comes up as he again looks to lead his Eagles to the Premiership. Last season he kept a league record 10 clean sheets in 23 appearances, including an impressive two clean sheets in the Final series.

This was one more than Blacktown City's John Crawley, who also had a strong year after coming back from National League duty with Sydney United. JC will double his responsibilities this year, working as Northern Spirit's Goalkeeping coach and the likes of Henderson and Aceski. Darren Moore at Fairfield had an up and down season last year, but playing behind a tough Bulls



Darren Moore
(Fairfield Bulls)

defence, he'll certainly come into calculations as will Fernando Greco at Bonnyrigg. Greco lost his number one shirt last season after starting off the year injured but with Aceski and Necevski both moving on, he is expected to again perform strongly.

Down at Belconnen Tony Giannasca might be heading towards the veteran class, but there is nothing 'veteran' about his goalkeeping performances. Eight cleansheets last season placed him third and with his side making the Final Series, he'll again be there or thereabouts.

The two real "smokeys" could well be Con Anastasiadis from St. George and Bob Catlin from APIA Leichhardt. Anastasiadis returns to the Premier League after a year off for personal reasons, but according to coach Manny Spanoudakis has lost nothing of his cat like reflexes. Catlin on the other hand replaces Andrew Crews between the sticks and at 37 years of age still represents tremendous value.

Over at Bankstown it will be interesting to see who starts with the number one shirt with both Zlatko Josevski and Brad Swancott working hard for the callup. It's an embarrassment of riches for coach Lee Sterrey with both players more than capable of a big year. Canterbury have strengthened up considerably on last year and welcome Ivan Necevski to Henson Park in a bid to keep it tidy. With Formeroos Mike Gibson and Greg Woodhouse both at the club, expect plenty of improvement from this lad.

Of the younger brigade, Chad Taylor at Penrith has shown some good promise and could surprise, as will Rockdale's Peter Trajceviski. A former Division One Player of the Year, coach Mile Todorovski believes he is one of the best and will prove himself this year.

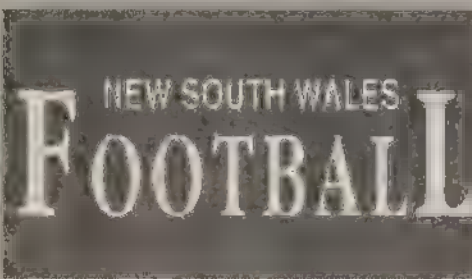
One interesting omission is Frank Mikuletic. Released by Fairfield Bulls at the end of last season, he is still without a club and represents excellent value for any team looking for a quality number one.



Peco Trajevski
(Rockdale City Suns)



John Crawley
(Blacktown City Demons)



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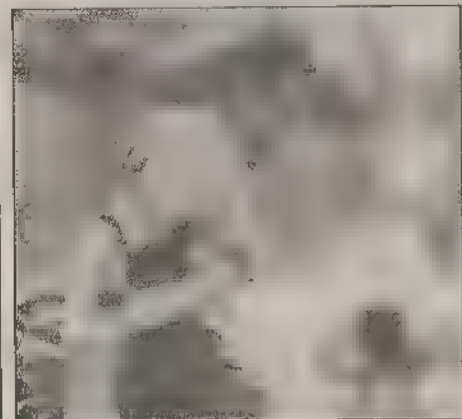
NSW Premier League



SEVEN OF THE BEST By Greg Stock Stars courtesy of Andrew Howe

With the number of new recruits to the Premier League ranks over the past few seasons, we take a look at seven of the best.

ZLATKO ARAMBASIC



Club: APIA-Leichhardt
Position: Striker

Background: A Canterbury-Marrickville junior, Arambasic played his first game of NSL football in 1986 with Canterbury as a seventeen-year-old. After two further seasons with the Berries he transferred to Blacktown City before embarking on an overseas career that saw him play for such European clubs as KV Mechelen, NAC Breda and Metz. After spending eight seasons at First Division level in Europe he returned to Australia in 1999 and resumed his NSL career with Sydney Olympic, Sydney United and Parramatta Power. Along the way he picked up one Soccerroo cap in 1990 against Moscow Torpedo and was a member of Australia's 1992 Olympic Games team in Barcelona.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"At 33 years of age, I still consider myself good enough to play National League, but sadly there weren't a lot of offers out there for me. Most National League clubs are training full-time but paying part-time wages and as a schoolteacher I need to think of my future. To have a regular income plus play part-time football, I can only get that in the Premier League."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"In my opinion the overall standard of the NSL has gone backwards over the last ten years. The player drain overseas combined with too many inexperienced young players has really stifled the leagues development. These kids really need the older more experienced players around to help them develop but there are too few of us 'older' guys around. I have only played a handful of trial games for APIA but with the number of former NSL players in the Premier League it should be a very competitive season."

What are your goals for the season?

"I am really looking forward to the challenge of helping APIA out this year. I still believe I have a career in the NSL so I really want to have a strong year and get noticed. Sure I need a few things to fall in my favour but I'm very keen for another chance."

What are your goals for the future?

"I'll take it a season at a time, but what is important to me is to play well each week, get noticed and take it from there."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

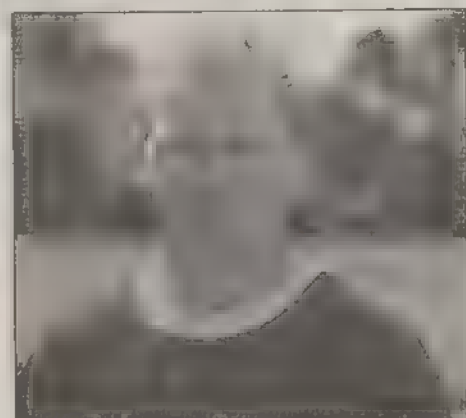
"I have an education degree, so I have been working in the public school system teaching Physical Education. I really enjoy working with the kids and want to cement myself a career for the future."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the club scene in Europe?

"When you go to a club in Europe, nobody knows who you are and you have to earn your stripes."

When I went overseas I was a pioneer in some respects, but if you can make a name for yourself and then move with that experience behind you, it really stands you in a lot better stead. There are benefits in going directly to a European club and avoiding the NSL, like the way Harry Kewell did it, while there are benefits in gaining experience here. It really is a case by case situation."

PETER BENNETT



Club: Penrith Panthers
Position: Midfielder

Background: It seems like Peter Bennett has been around an eternity, since making his NSL debut way back in 1989 for Blacktown City. He went onto make 165 NSL appearances with four clubs - Blacktown City, APIA-Leichhardt, Sydney United and Parramatta Power, scoring 8 goals in the process. In 1992 Bennett suffered a chronic injury that kept him sidelined for over two years before he fought his way back onto the park via a season in the Second Division with Penrith. Now taking a step back from the National League, he has again linked up with his old club, keen to help his side finish in the top five.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"After my last season with the Power there were a few sides interested in my services, but they fell through at the last hurdle. I have known Tony Rasmussen since our time together and Blacktown City and I always said to him I'd come back to the Panthers once my time in the NSL was over. So here I am."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"The NSL is a little quicker and you don't have as much time on the ball as you do in the Premier League. It's a different sort of league and given that the general fitness of the players is better, you tend to find there is much more running off the ball."

What are your goals for the season?

"Personally to stay on the park, be injury free and have a good season. For the team I want to do everything I can to help the other players on and off the field and win as many games as we can. Tony (Rasmussen) has set a target for us to achieve this year and I'll be doing everything I can to help us get there."

What are your goals for the future?

"I'm just going to take each game and each season as it comes. I've learnt in the past not to get too far ahead of myself, and providing I stay fit and still enjoy playing, I'll keep going."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

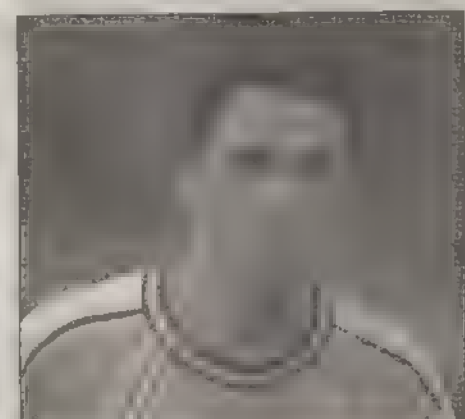
"I am doing some work as a carpet layer at present."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"You definitely need to have the talent. The best advice is to just play how you naturally play and

work hard. I was lucky that I got my first break with Manfred Schaefer and it was him who told me to just play how I naturally play and the results will come."

RAPHAEL BOVE



Club: Bankstown City
Position: Midfielder

Background: A Sydney Olympic junior, Bove first came to prominence in 1995 when he made his National league debut. After a couple of seasons in the NSL, he accepted an offer to go to Holland where he played two seasons of first team football for Heerenveen. After stints with Livorno in Italy and Dundee United in Scotland, he returned home and linked up with Marconi in 2000/1 but suffered a knee injury, which kept his appearances down to just 10 over the past two seasons. This year he has linked up with his former coach Lee Sterrey at Bankstown City determined to put the injuries and disappointment of the past few seasons, well and true behind him.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"I was with Marconi for the past two seasons but I was limited in the number of games I played because of this knee injury. Understandably my form has suffered to the point where I was limited in where I could go. So I have spent the past six months working hard on my injury and doing a solid pre-season in preparation for a solid year."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"This is my first year in the Premier League and from what I have seen it looks to be very competitive. I'll wait until I have played a few games to make any judgement."

What are your goals for the season?

"I'm back to full fitness again, so I really want to put my head down and show everyone just what I am capable of. If I can play the full season and help Bankstown to the Semi-Finals I'll be more than happy."

What are your goals for the future?

"I've learnt over the past few years of my footballing life that you can't think too far ahead. I'd really like to play National League again and possibly play overseas, but it all depends on what I can do this year. I'll just see how the ball bounces this season and go from there."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

"My main focus has been to train hard and get myself ready for this season. I am looking at doing a number of things at present but for now, football is it."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"Given the right opportunity embarking on a career overseas at a young age can benefit you both on and off the field and prepare you for the highs and lows that a professional footballer will go through. On the other hand, establishing yourself for a few

seasons in the NSL is also a great stepping stone to overseas. The examples of both Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton give weight to both arguments, but it really depends on the player and their mental and physical state."

OLENN SPROD



Club: Fairfield Bulls
Position: Midfielder

Background: Born and bred on the Central Coast, Sprod went to English club Exeter City as a bright eyed 16 year old serving a season as a football apprentice. Unfortunately work permit problems prohibited him signing a professional contract and he returned to Australia where he has racked up an impressive 204 appearances (8 goals) with Newcastle Breakers, Parramatta Eagles and Newcastle United. Sprod was an integral member of the Eagles 2001/2 Championship winning side and has made an offseason switch to the Bulls after playing the second half of the Winter Super League season with Fraser Park.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"Newcastle United changed their policy requiring all their contracted players to live in Newcastle. I had just bought a new place on the northern beaches so I decided to come back to the state league and set myself up a career outside of soccer."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"The movement of the ball and the play is a lot quicker in the National League, and the defenders tend to close you down a lot faster. The Premier League tends to be a lot more physical at times."

What are your goals for the season?

"To win the championship with Fairfield. It's very players ambition to win a trophy and I'd be disappointed if we didn't make the semi-finals at the very least."

What are your goals for the future?

"To be perfectly honest, I've just about closed the door on a return to the National League. At my age I want to focus on developing a life outside of football and set myself up for the future."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

"I have just joined the Fire Brigade and I am four weeks into my sixteen week training. Life after soccer is the priority at the moment, though I am still keen to play at the highest possible level given these commitments. I might miss a few games owing to work commitments this season, but given the physical nature of my training, I have no doubts I'll still be match fit."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"Keep working hard and the results will come. Talent isn't everything. You can be the most gifted players but if the effort isn't put in at training, you won't make it. It's the first thing you learn when you're a football apprentice in England and it's something I have never forgotten."

NSW Premier League

SEVEN OF THE BEST (Continued)

TOM MARIC



Club: Canterbury-Marrickville
Position: Defender

Background: A Sydney United junior, Maric was promoted to their NSL side in season 1999/2000 making 43 first grade appearances for 2 goals over two seasons. In 2001 John Turner recruited him for the Bulls return to the Premier League where he made 22 appearances (0 goals) before switching camps in the off-season to join State coach Greg Woodhouse at Canterbury-Marrickville.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"Work commitments have placed a lot of strain on me being a professional footballer. The full-time training and everything that goes with that made it tough for me to continue at that elite level. The instability of the national league was reason enough for me to take a step back and embark on setting up my own business."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"Composure on the ball and general fitness is the main difference. The playing surfaces at National League grounds is a lot smoother which results in better football all round."

What are your goals for the season?

"To win the Premier League with Canterbury-Marrickville. I only live around the corner from Henson Park and I would like nothing better than to win the league with them. Having Greg Woodhouse there as coach is also a major incentive. He is a terrific motivator and has a fantastic rapport with the players, so to win something for him would be terrific."

What are your goals for the future?

"I've got a two year contract with Canterbury, so I'll see that out and gauge it from there. I'd like to really

establish myself as a known defender in the Premier League and providing my other career continues to grow, I'm happy."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

"I am in architectural drawing and design. My business name is Maric CAD design and I specialize in residential work. I also work for a commercial interior company preparing office fitout drawings for clients, so it keeps me busy."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"In one word persistence. Train hard and your chance will come sooner rather than later. Concentrate on speed and skill and treat every match on its merits. The experience comes with time but you must keep working hard at training."

SEBASTIAN SINOZIC



Club: St. George
Position: Defender

Background: Another product of the St George junior ranks, Sinozic came to early prominence as a member of the Joys in the 1995 World Youth Championships in Ecuador. In the Young Socceroos side that knocked over Argentina 4-3 in the World Youth Cup in Malaysia he has since played 77 National league games for Wollongong City, Sydney United and Sydney Olympic. A highly talented defender, the only major honour yet to elude him, is a Socceroos cap.

Why are you playing Premier League this season?

"After the NSL season I went to America and had a run with MLS side Los Angeles Galaxy. I tried with a few niggling injuries, and because I wasn't one hundred percent they asked me to come back and see them

in late January. Given these circumstances, I wasn't able to find an NSL club willing to agree to let me go free in January, so I phoned Manny (Spanoudakis) at St George and it went from there."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"In the Premier League the players play for the love of the game. Money is the secondary motivation so it hasn't shot to their head. When a player reaches the National League he trains full-time so the benefits come from that in improved fitness and skill."

What are your goals for the season?

"Get myself back on track for a start and play as much football as I can. My biggest problem at present is fitness, so before I go back to America in January I need to be as fit as I can."

What are your goals for the future?

"I'd dearly love to play in Europe, which is why the US represents a great opportunity for me to get in the shop window. I'd also like a Socceroos shirt one day, but the most important thing is to get fit and see what happens next year."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

"My father has a business so I have been keeping myself busy helping him. It's very flexible so I have been able to fit that around my playing and training commitments."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"Train hard and do your best. Success doesn't happen overnight, it takes years, and for every player that makes it, there are hundreds that don't."

LUKE ROODENBERG



Club: Blacktown City
Position: Striker

Background: An APIA-Leichhardt junior, Roodenberg was recruited by the Parramatta Power for their debut season in 1999/2000 making 21 appearances for 5 goals over the past three seasons. Released during the off season, he fielded a number of offers before made his way to Gabbie Stadium where he is looking to have a strong year in preparation for another crack at the NSL.

What is your reason for you playing Premier League this season?

"To get a full season under my belt outside of the National league. I see my season at Blacktown City as a chance to reestablish myself and put myself on show for a return to the NSL. Blacktown is my local club and in order to be recognized you need to play for a winning side, which is what attracted me to them. The coach Brian Brown has a big reputation and they assembled a very competitive side, so I am more than happy to be here."

What are the main differences between playing in the NSL and the Premier League?

"I have only played a few Premier League trial games so far, but from what I can see the main difference is the speed of the game. At National league level you don't have much time to decide what to do, and the defenders close you down very quickly. In the Premier League you seem to have a little bit more time on the ball, though I must admit the defenders do tackle very hard."

What are your goals for the season?

"Personally I'm hoping to be up there amongst the top goalscorers and play all twenty-two games. From a club perspective I want to play on a winning side and make the finals."

What are your goals for the future?

"Football is such a funny sport, a hero one week you can be kicked in the dirt the next. I don't want to get too ahead of myself at this stage, just worry about this year, train hard and have a good season. If I can do that, the rest will look after itself."

Are you a full-time footballer or do you have a career outside of the game?

"I was until I was released by the Power. These days I have a job with a friend of mine, working as a landscape gardener. The physical work is good, keeps me out in the sun and the fresh air which I really enjoy."

What would be your advice to a young player looking to break into the National League?

"Train hard and listen to your coaches. If you work hard off the park, you find the rest will look after itself."

FROM THE SIDELINES By Greg Stock

"It seems last weeks 'From the Sidelines' has provided the Belconnen Blue Devils with plenty of ammunition in their bid for a top five spot. In writing our Golden Boot story, we overlooked Daniel Macor's impressive 17-goal haul last season much to the annoyance of the Blue Devils faithful. Our apologies Daniel and good luck for the year. On other matters Blue Devils, coach Lino Fiorese has named his first grade squad for the year with a couple of interesting additions. A full list of players is Tony Giannasca (Captain), Stephen Kemp, Michael Katz, Elliott Zwangobani, Ivo de Jesus, Adrian Dowling, Stewart Camara, Daniel Camara, Daniel Macor, Matthew Cachia, Jaime Mauro, Oscar Zamora, David Arranz, Marco Perinovic, Lee Pietrukowski, Valerio Galeotti, Clinton Larfield, Andrew Rakic, Matthew Valeri, Michael McKenna, and Francois Bangweni.

*Trial Game results from the last few weekends. The Coasties enjoyed a hitout against a Sydney based Ghanaian side on the 3rd of November. Composed mostly of South African expats the Coasties won the match comfortably 5-0 with Peter Preston scoring a brace, Nathan Byrn, Tom Quilty and James Monie all scoring one each. Midweek, the Panthers met the Bulls and came away with a 2-0 win. Goalscorers were Danny Hinton and Ossie El Ali. Standout performers were Shane Hammond for the Panthers, Mitch Daley and Adam Snyder for the Bulls.

On Saturday at Plum Park the Coasties caused a minor upset when they knocked over the Parramatta Eagles 3-2 at Plum Park. The reinvented Peter Preston scored the first goal after four minutes following some good leadup work from Daniel Surrage. Ten minutes from half-time Ben Delicata equalised with a superb individual effort, before Tom Quilty beat the Eagles Mark Reveley for a loose ball and slotted one away just before the break. In

the second half, Ben Delicata put the Eagles back on level terms in the 57th minute before the Coasties new signing James Monie grabbed the winner in the 67th minute with a well timed back post header. Coasties coach John McLafferty was said to be well pleased with his young charges. "We kept our shape, showed plenty of fighting spirit and proved we will be competitive during the season. It was also good to see our strikers scoring first for the second game in a row. That has been the clubs weakness over the past two years. It is too soon to get excited but things are coming along nicely." In the Under 19s the result was a 1-1 draw.

On Saturday night at Valentine Park, St George defeated Belconnen 4-3, but it was the Blue Devils that impressed the most. They only led once during the match at 2-1, but St. George were forced to clear off the line several times in the second half as Marko 'Mad max' Perinovic and Daniel Macor launched a number of raids. Understrength at the back Belconnen struggled to contain Bruno Beddomi and he scored one excellent individual effort, and set up another for Jason Lal. The other Saints goals came from a diving header by Angelo Petratos and a Jose Mendes penalty following an uncharacteristic error by Tony Giannasca. While for Belconnen, Ivo De Jesus netted twice including a penalty and Macor picked up the sides third. The real highlight of the match was the form of the two veterans Beddomi and Perinovic. Beddomi seems to be over the groin injury that has limited his pre-season, while Perinovic made a huge impression when introduced up front in the second half.

*Fairfield Bulls are one of a number of clubs battling a mini injury crisis just two weeks out from the start of the new season. On the injured list are Ryan O'Shea (broken foot), Ben Green (Medial Ligament Tear), Jason Connely

(Rib Cartilage), Mathew Borg (shoulder), Mark Honselaars (eye), Ismael Arrarte (knee). While the majority are expected to be named in the squad to meet APIA-Leichhardt in round one, coach Craig Sharpley is a little worried that the lack of match fitness could count against them. Sharpley has also named Eddie Rogers as his Assistant Coach.

*St. George are in the same boat as the Bulls with a number of their first grade squad engaged in a race against time to be fit for their round one clash with The Saints injured list includes Orhan Dincer (hamstring), Nick Bohantis (groin), Ali Sahm (shin splints) and Nick Tavouktsis (hamstring).

*Parramatta Eagles will be playing their last preseason fixture next Sunday when they meet the Fijian National Team as a curtain-raiser to the Sydney United v Brisbane Strikers NSL fixture at the Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday November 17th, 4pm kickoff. Simon Micallef will referee the match. The game will be an interesting hitout for both sides and sees Eagles coach John Callega matching wits with former Australian coach Les Scheinflug. From the Sidelines will have a full report next week.

*Former Northern Spirit defender Phil Moss has been named as the Manly Warringah Dolphins new head coach, replacing Formerroo Robbie Slater. "I'm really looking forward to the challenge" said Moss who is looking to rebuild the club after the successes of the past couple of seasons. "I have big boots to fill after Gray Van Egmond and Robbie Slater over the past two years, but after coaching the Spirit youth side last season I feel we can rebuild and have another strong year." The club is holding trials

for the under-21 and under-19 sides at 10am on Sunday mornings at Cromer Park. Any interested players for the first grade side should send their playing resume attention to Phil Moss, Head Coach Manly-Warringah Dolphins, PO Box 455 Narrabeen 2101.

*New Sutherland coach John Turner is still looking for an ambitious under-18s coach, looking to help reestablish the Sharks as a force in the Super League. Interest can be registered directly with John on 0412-335 121.

*Winter Super league club Hajduk Wanderers Soccer Club held their annual presentation night on Saturday October 26th at the Hajduk Club in front of over 360 people. VIPs at the dinner included, Mr. Charles Herrera (Consulate General of Malta) Mr. Joseph Tripodi MP (State Member For Fairfield) and Ms. Jodie Camden LLB (Ex-Officio Director NSW Soccer Federation). Of the major awards, the First Grade Player of the year was Trent Worrall, while the Sportsman of the year was goalkeeper Darren Cross. The club has also announced its 2003 coaching lineup with Formerroo Tommy McCulloch returning as head coach, under 21s coach is Bruce Tilt while Tony Caruso will look after the under 19s.

*Fraser Park have named their new first grade coach for season 2003, with Ian Gillan taking the reins from John Sentas. A former assistant coach at St George and Ryde City and the Jets under 21s coach last season, Gillan brings a wealth of experience to the club, following a playing career with the likes of Dulwich Hill, Kurngarai and Manly. Gillan was on hand last weekend as the club held their annual awards bar-b-que, with defender Jack Sobczyk picking up the award as the Player of the year.

Women's Soccer

ROUND 5 WNSL MATCH REPORTS

Friday, 08 November 2002

Canberra Eclipse1
(Kristyn Swaffer 77)

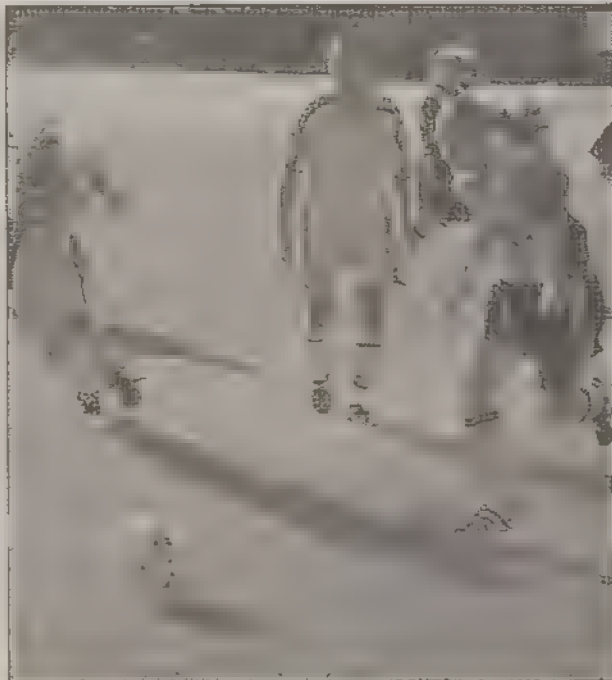
Adelaide Sensation1
(Lisa De Vanna 75)
Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

Canberra Eclipse and Adelaide Sensation shared the points in a 1-1 draw to kick off action in the double header weekend at Valentine Sports Park.

In the scorching afternoon heat, Canberra had three early chances including a shot that was cleared off the line. But from then till half-time, Adelaide's Lisa De Vanna caused persistent headaches for the Eclipse defence with her lightning speed and skill. However, goalkeeper Amy Beatrice met the challenge with three great saves.

After the break, play fizzled with the heat although Adelaide were still the more dangerous in attack. On the hour mark, Canberra squandered their chance to snatch the lead when former South Australian Kristyn Swaffer's penalty kick was saved by keeper Leanne Trimboli.

It was Adelaide who broke the deadlock in the 75th minute, De Vanna's strike finding its way into goal despite a defender's attempt to clear off the line. The goal sparked some life back into the game and Eclipse equalised 2 minutes later, Swaffer making up for her earlier miss with a cracking freekick. Adelaide almost snared the winner in stoppage time, Stacey Stocco's 30 metre effort hitting the crossbar.



Tanya Katianos (left) chases down Jenny Brew (right), whilst Roushan Walsh watches.

Canberra Eclipse:

21 Amy Beatrice 17 Simone Borlinski 10 Rhian Davies 9 Danelle Hepperlin (David 52m) Petra Claire Hepperlin (Brew 46m) 12 Lal Karp 16 Caitlin Munoz (Rukaniva 67m) 5 Kristyn Swaffer 7 Amy Taylor 6 Gail Thomson 8 Amy Wilson

Substitutes:

13 Jenny Brew 18 Gwen Davis 20 Laura Marzotto 14 Emily Parker 3 Tiana Rukaniva

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide Sensation:

23 Leanne Trimboli 6 Chichi May 17 Tanya Katianos 4 Cindy Benoit 20 Cheryl Salisbury 9 Stacey Stocco 2 Bernadette Madden (Harrison 82m) 18 Roushan Walsh 14 Rebecca Blacker (Burgess 75m) 15 Lisa De Vanna 3 Leanne Slater (Balomenos 60m)

Substitutes:

12 Tanya Harrison 13 Vicki Balomenos Leanne Gubbins 5 Chelsea Hodge 8 Nenita Burgess

Yellow Cards: Stacey Stocco 67m

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Danielle Clarke

Assistant Referees: Sarah Danes, Cassandra Seowen

Fourth Official: Sharon O'Neil

Friday, 08 November 2002

NSW Sapphires2
(Anissa Tan 89' (pen), Danielle Small 90')

Northern NSW Pride1
(Ashley Wilson 48')
Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

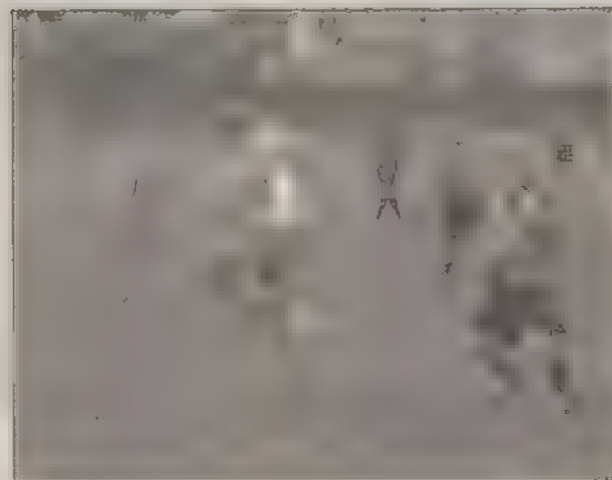
The NSW Sapphires avoided an embarrassing loss to local rivals, Northern NSW Pride, with a late penalty and a freak goal to run out 2-1 winners in their round 5 clash.

The Pride created the better opportunities throughout and were unlucky not to claim the lead in what ended up a scoreless first half.

Northern were finally rewarded for their tenacity three minutes after the break, when Ashley Wilson was released with a neat ball and clinically slotted home the one-one opportunity past the advancing Sapphires.

Goalkeeper, Dimitra Poulos. The Sapphires began to get a little frustrated looking for that all important equaliser, but luck just didn't seem to be with them. That was until the 89th minute when Michelle Carney was fouled in the Pride box, and referee Amelia Morris had no hesitation pointing to the spot. Sapphires stalwart Anissa Tan stepped up, and made no mistake with the penalty conversion, pushing the ball sweetly to the left of NNSW's keeper, Erin Hunter.

Just when the match seemed destined for a draw, the Sapphires were awarded a free-kick just outside the left-hand corner of the penalty box. Danielle Small took the responsibilities and fired in a right-foot cross which somehow evaded all and sundry within the box, including the keeper, and bounced over the line to seal a valuable victory for the home team.



NSW Sapphires Jo Burgess in action.

NSW Sapphires:

16 Dimitra Poulos 4 Kath Collins 5 Lisa Gilbert 6 Anissa Tan 7 Kylie Ledbrook 8 Jo Burgess (Klessatel 91m) 10 Taryn Rocka (Blaney 62m) 11 Michele Carney 13 Catherine Cannuli 18 Danielle Small 19 Sarah Walsh (Kamber 62m)

Substitutes:

1 Cassie Keil 7 Leah Blayney 3 Lisa Warrener 14 Nicole Kihber 21 Neisha Kossate

Yellow Cards: Danielle Small 86m

Red Cards: Nil

Northern NSW Pride:

21 Erin Hunter 2 Larissa Stevens 3 Rachel Aley 6 Amber Neilson 7 Lauren Crichton 8 Rose Dunic 9 Tara McMan (Neilson 80m) 10 Hayley Crawford 11 Kate Gill 12 Ashley Wilson 17 Tracey Baker

Substitutes:

1 Alison Logue 14 Debra Seale 6 Melanie Cotts 18 Martina Asvesta 11 Alice Neilson

Yellow Cards: Neilson 90m

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Amelia Morris

Assistant Referees: Sharon O'Neil, Michele Phillips

Fourth Official: Danielle Clarke

Friday, 08 November 2002

Queensland Sting2
(Bryony Duus 61', Kate McShea 76')

Victoria Vision0
Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

Queensland Sting came away with a 2-0 win but were made to work hard in the first half by a plucky Victoria Vision, the depleted southerners taking the game to the clear favourites and showing some promising patches of play.

Queensland gradually wore down their opponent and finished the half with some good chances, but the teams went in at the break with no goals.

Sting's Heather Garnock frequently supplied quality crosses from the left, and 16 minutes into the second half, one such pinpoint ball resulted in a goal, Bryony Duus making no mistake from right in front.

Victoria never gave up the fight but the Queenslanders sealed a deserved victory in the 76th minute, captain Kate McShea cutting inside her defender and curling her shot on the turn from the edge of the box.



Queensland Sting captain Kate McShea.

Queensland Sting:

1 Claire Nichols 2 Pam Grant (Beaumont 79m) 3 Sarah Garven 4 Ffionna Cannon 5 Karin Reiter 7 Kate McShea (Mitchell 82m) 8 Bryony Duus (Dawney 62m) 9 Heather Garnock 10 Laura Harch 11 April Mann 12 Natalie Thomas (Reed 76m)

Substitutes:

13 Jessica Mitchell 14 Beona Dawney 15 Ellen Beaumont 16 Hannah Reed

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Victoria Vision:

20 Melissa Bartlett 4 Sarah Greenwood 5 Jean Black 7 Sarah Fitzgerald 11 Amy Skare (Koutouvelis 67m) 12 Tanya Bishop (Harrison 82m) 13 Janani Maza (Terek 82m) 6 Aleks Dimitrievska (Smith 67m) 17 Lauren Parnham 9 Andrea Tassia 22 Raine Lamb

Substitutes:

8 Tereza Koutouvelis 9 Leigh Terek 2 Katrina Smith 24 Megan Twomey

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Amelia Morris

Assistant Referees: Sharon O'Neil, Michele Phillips

Fourth Official: Danielle Clarke

Women's Soccer

ROUND 6 WNSL MATCH REPORTS

Sunday, 10 November 2002

Queensland Sting4

(Kate McShea 26', 42', Melinda Dawney 35', Natalie Thomas 39')

Adelaide Sensation0

Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

Queensland Sting defeated Adelaide Sensation 4-0, with four crushing goals within the twenty minute period leading into halftime.

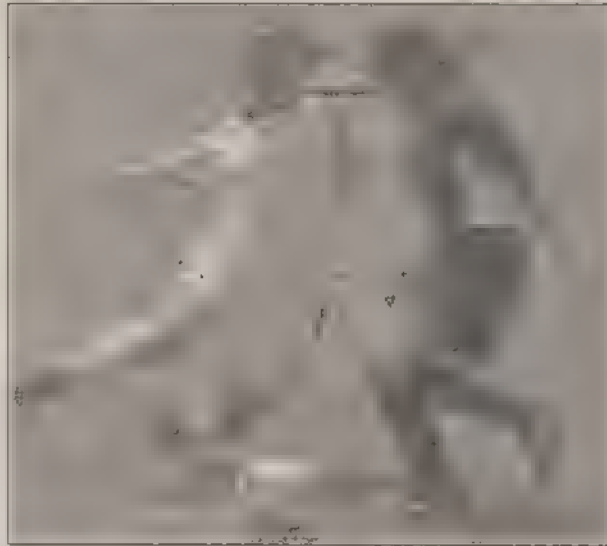
In very hot and blustery conditions, the match started as an even contest. Adelaide Sensation, although missing the midfield leadership of Cheryl Salisbury through injury, were unlucky not to score from either Lisa De Vanna or Stacey Stocco. Not long after, Queensland stepped up a gear and opened up holes in the opposition defence, creating some uncertainty in the usually solid Adelaide outfit.

Four chances were created and all were converted. Kate McShea started the ball rolling in the 26th minute, a dangerous cross left uncared for by the Sensation backline and the Sting captain smacked the ball first time into the back of the net. In the 35th minute, a Queensland shot was blocked by the outcoming keeper, but the crumbs fell loose for Belinda Dawney, her shot finding goal despite a defender's attempt to clear off the line.

Just four minutes later, an Adelaide miskick in defence found Queensland's Lana Harch whose strike hit the bottom of the post, allowing the lurking Natalie Thomas to strike with ease from 10 metres.

Shortly before the break, McShea claimed a second, shrugging off her marker from just inside the 18 yard box and thumping her shot past the outcoming keeper.

After such a flurry of action, the game slowed down in the heat of the day, with few highlights and no addition to the score in the second half.



A text book 50-50 ball.

Queensland Sting:

1. Clare Nichols 2. Pam Grant 3. Sarah Gaven (Mitchell 53m) 5. Kara Reuter (Beaumont 53m) 7. Kate McShea 8. Bryony Duns (Reed 71m) 9. Heather Garrick (Canham 46m) 10. Lana Harch 11. April Mann 12. Natalie Thomas 14. Belinda Dawney

Substitutes:

4. Elissa Canham 13. Jessica Mitchell 15. Ellen Beaumont 16. Alannah Reed

Yellow Cards: Kate McShea (89m)

Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide Sensation:

23. Leanne Trimboli (Gubbins 85m) 6. Chich. May 17. Tanya Katanos 4. Cindy Benoit 2. Bernadette Madden 9. Stacey Stocco (Barnes 77m) 15. Lisa De Vanna 3. Leanne Slater 18. Roushan Walsh (Burgess 58m) 14. Rebecca Blacker (Hodge 64m) 12. Tanya Harrison

Substitutes:

20. Cheryl Salisbury 5. Chelsea Hodge 1. Leanne Gubbins 8. Nenita Burgess 13. Vicki Barnes

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Jacqui Melksham

Assistant Referees: Sarah Ho, Danielle Clarke

Fourth Official: Sharon O'Neill

Sunday, 10 November 2002

Northern NSW Pride4

(Katie Gill 20', Amber Nielson 33', 48', Ashley Wilson 67')

Victoria Vision0

Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

Northern NSW Pride, for the second time in a week, proved far too strong for Victoria Vision, coming away with a 4-0 win. Northern looked lively from the opening minutes, whilst Victoria battled hard but were unable to threaten near goal.

Pride opened their account in the 20th minute, when Katie Gill found herself on the end of a well directed ball from deep and made no mistake from 14 metres. Shortly after the half hour mark, a cross from the left was clinically finished by Amber Nielson.

Three minutes after the break, the polished attack of Northern scored number three, Gill flicking on the ball for Neilson to sidefoot her shot from 15 metres out. A solo effort from Sarah Fitzgerald was Victoria's best chance but her drive was parried around the post. Midway through the second half, Northern struck again when Ashley Wilson's drive on the turn found the target.

A disappointing end to the weekend for the Vision, who failed to find the net in each of three games, conceding 6 goals. Whilst the Pride will travel up the Pacific Highway thinking what could have been had they knocked over the Sapphires on Friday night.



Commotion in the Pride goal box.

Northern NSW Pride:

21. Eric Hunter 2. Lorissa Stevens 3. Rache. Aley Cotts 73m) 6. Amber Neilson 7. Lauren Catterick 8. Rose Dune 9. Tara McMinn (Searle 76m) 10. Hyley Crawford (Assessas 80m) 11. Kate Gill 12. Ashley Wilson 17. Tracey Baker

Substitutes:

1. Alison Logie 14. Debra Sear 16. Melaine Cotts 18. Martina Assessas 19. Anne Nielson

Yellow Cards: McMinn 60m

Red Cards: Nil

Victoria Vision:

20. Melissa Barker 5. Je. Black 7. Sarah Fitzgerald 9. Leigh Terek (Thomson 76m) 1. Amy Savatir (Kontrovelis 54m) 12. Louisa Bisby 13. Tanara Miza 16. Aleks Dimitreska (Tzados 46m) 17. Lauren Farrugh 21. Amberwald 7m. Katrina Smith 22. Rachel Lamb

Substitutes:

4. Sarah Greenwald 8. George. Kontrovelis 19. Andrea Tzados 24. Megan Thomson

Yellow Cards: Rachel Lamb

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Heidi Breeze

Assistant Referees: Sarah Davies, Leanne McNamara

Fourth Official: Jacqui Melksham

Sunday, 10 November 2002

NSW Sapphires1

(Rockall 67' (pen))

Canberra Eclipse1

(Amy Wilson 13')

Venue: Valentine Sports Park, Sydney

It was a case of De ja vu all over again when the NSW Sapphires and Canberra Eclipse played out another score draw in their Round 6 match-up. Canberra took the early lead against a disappointing Sapphires before NSW finally lifted their game and found the equaliser from the penalty spot.

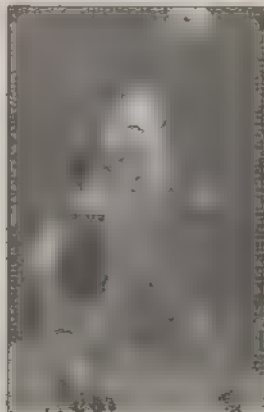
Despite the absence of injured striker Caitlin Munoz, Canberra were sharp and creative and took the game to a flat, uninspired Sapphires. The Eclipse were rewarded in the 13th minute with the first free-kick of the game.

Krystin Swaffer swung the ball into the box from the right, but the NSW's defence failed to clear convincingly, leaving Amy Wilson to neatly side foot a chip over the backline and the keeper, high into the net to give Canberra the early lead.

Soon after, Wilson and Gill Thomson were also unlucky not to add to the Eclipse tally, both denied by some quality saves by Cassie Kell in the Sapphires goal. In the midfield, Amy Taylor gave Michelle Carney alot of work out wide whilst Danielle Small found much space on the right, but

failed to get the necessary service to capitalise.

Midway through a slower second half, NSW finally showed some urgency and purpose in their game against a less attacking Canberra. In the 67th minute, Sapphires striker Sarah Walsh was almost in on the 6-yard box when she was fouled by the Eclipse goalkeeper, Amy Beattie.



Taryn Rockall jumps highest.

In a re-run of the previous week the Sapphires captain, Taryn Rockall, stood up to the task and confidently placed the resultant penalty kick low and left into goal, atoning for her previous weekends miss and equalising the scores.

For the remainder of the half, NSW dominated much of the play and were unlucky not to find the winner close to full time when a goal mouth scramble forced the Eclipse to clear off the line. In the end, Canberra managed to hold out until the final whistle and take a share of the points. NSW were left to rue what could have been after a slow start to a match that on paper they should have won.

The good news for the Sapphires is that current Matilda's striker, Kelly Golebiowski, has returned from a successful trials in the US and will hopefully be rushed into the side for their important clash against league leaders, Queensland in Brisbane on Saturday.

NSW Sapphires:

1. Cassie Kell 3. Lisa Warrenner (Gilbert 71m) 4. Kath Collins 6. Anissa Iann 7. Kylie Ledbrook (Blayney 82m) 10. Taryn Rockall 11. Michelle Carney 13. Catherine Cannuli 14. Nicole Kimber 18. Danielle Small (Klessattel 88m) 19. Sarah Walsh (Burgess 67m)

Substitutes:

8. Jo Burgess 5. Lisa Gilbert 17. Leah Blayney 21. Nerisha Klessattel 16. Dimitra Poulos

Yellow Cards: Danielle Small 63m

Red Cards: Nil

Canberra Eclipse:

21. Amy Beattie 10. Rhian Davies 5. Krystin Swaffer 13. Jenny Brew 17. Simone Boracinski 11. Peta Claire Hepperlin 7. Amy Taylor 6. Gill Thomson 12. Tal Karp 8. Amy Wilson 9. Danielle Hepperlin (David 50m)

Substitutes:

14. Emily Parker 18. Gwen David 20. Luisa Marzotto 3. Tina Rukamva 16. Caitlin Munoz

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Sharon O'Neill

Assistant Referees: Danielle Clarke, Cassandra Scowen

Fourth Official: Heidi Breeze



Women's Soccer



SOCCER AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

RESULTS

ROUND FIVE

Canberra Eclipse 1 (Kristyn Swaffer 77')	NSW Sapphires 2 (Anissa Tann 89' Danielle Small 90')	Queensland Sting 2 (Bryony Duus 61', Kate McShea 76')
Adelaide Sensation 1 (Lisa De Vanna 75')	NNSW Pride 1 (Ashley Wilson 48')	Victoria Vision 0
at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW	at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW	at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW

ROUND SIX

Queensland Sting 4 (Kate McShea 26', 45', Belinda Dawney 35', Natalie Thomas 39')	NNSW Pride 4 (Katie Gill 20', Amber Neilson 33', 48', Ashley Wilson 67')	NSW Sapphires 1 (Taryn Rockall 67')
Adelaide Sensation 0	Victoria Vision 0	Canberra Eclipse 1 (Amy Wilson 13')
at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW	at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW	at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW

—WNSL TABLE—

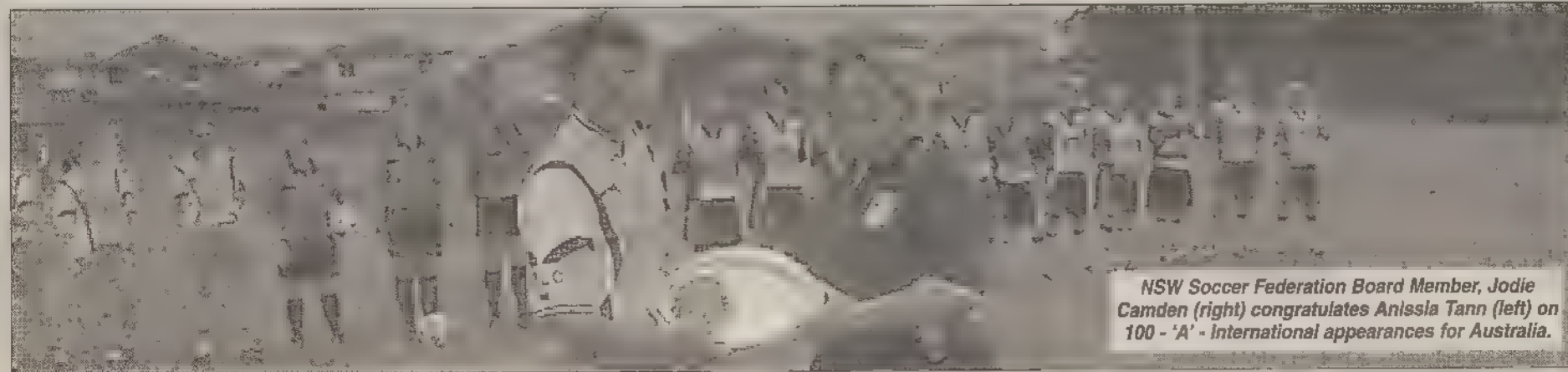
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QUEENSLAND STING	.6	5	-	1	18	3	15	15
NSW SAPPHIRES	.6	3	2	1	10	6	4	11
ADELAIDE SENSATION	.6	3	1	2	9	9	0	10
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	.6	1	4	1	8	6	2	7
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	6	2	-	4	10	17	-7	6
VICTORIA VISION	.6	-	1	5	1	15	-14	1

—TOP GOALSCORERS—

- 6 - Lisa De Vanna (Adelaide Sensation)
- 5 - Kate McShea (Queensland Sting)
- 3 - Katie Gill (Northern NSW Pride), Natalie Thomas (Queensland Sting),
Amber Neilson (NNSW Pride)
- 2 - April Mann (Queensland Sting), Heather Garlock (Queensland Sting),
Sarah Walsh (NSW Sapphires), Tal Karp (Canberra Eclipse),
Bryony Duus (Queensland Sting), Kristyn Swaffer (Canberra Eclipse),
Danielle Small (NSW Sapphires), Amy Wilson (Canberra Eclipse),
Belinda Dawney (Queensland Sting), Ashley Wilson (NNSW Pride),
Taryn Rockall (NSW Sapphires)
- 1 - Leah Blayney (NSW Sapphires), Elissa Canham (Queensland Sting),
Catherine Cannull (NSW Sapphires), Michelle Carney (NSW Sapphires),
Lauren Colthorpe (NNSW Pride), Rose Dunne (NNSW Pride),
Bryony Duus (Queensland Sting), Sarah Groenewald (Victoria Vision),
Olivia Hohnke (Queensland Sting), Caitlin Munoz (Canberra Eclipse),
Stacey Stucco (Adelaide Sensation), Amy Taylor (Canberra Eclipse)

ROUND SEVEN

Queensland Sting v NSW Sapphires Date: Saturday 16th November Kick-Off: 6.30pm Venue: at Carmichael Park, Tingalpa, Brisbane, Qld	Adelaide Sensation v Victoria Vision Date: Saturday 16th November Kick-Off: 3.00pm Venue: at Marden Sports Complex, Marden, SA	Northern NSW Pride v Canberra Eclipse Date: Sunday 17th November Kick-Off: 11.00am Venue: at Jack McLaughlin Oval, Edgeworth NSW
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NSW Soccer Federation Board Member, Jodie Camden (right) congratulates Anissa Tann (left) on 100 - 'A' - International appearances for Australia.



WNSL Photo Gallery

By Carlos Furtado



Adelaide cooling off in the afternoon heat.



A case of crowding the ball.



Northern NSW celebrates another goal.



Well balanced-tight control.



Kylie Ledbrook shields well.



Simone Borucinski follows through.

FIRST ANNUAL SYDNEY TOURNAMENT

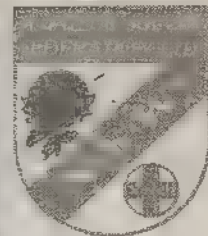


An elite Under 17 tournament that will be held at Valentine Sports Park from the 11th-19th January 2003.
For more information contact the NSW Soccer Federation (tournament@soccernsw.com.au) or
check-out the website www.soccernsw.com.au
Hurry nominations are limited to 16 teams and close on Friday 29th November, 2002.



NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Limited

www.nswasf.com.au



HORNSBY RSL SOCCER CLUBS WINS THE MALLACOOTA CUP

The 2002 Mallacoota Cup was held over the recent October long weekend with six teams taking part in the tournament.

Participants were: Manly (defending Champions), Mallacoota United (Hosts), Hornsby RSL (Runners Up 1998/99), Canberra City, Wollongong University and Mallacoota Colts.

The Mallacoota Cup has been going for 31 years and apart from the host team, Hornsby RSL SC (from Kurngai Association) is the longest "serving" invited team being in attendance for the 23rd time. Hornsby RSL has now finally succeeded in winning the Cup after being Runners-Up in 1983, 1994, 1998 and 1999 as well as being semi-finalists for the last 8 years.

Played as a two-day round robin event, all teams play each

other and the top four go into the semi-finals. After an all night thunderstorm on Friday night the games commenced 1 hour late and all scheduled games were completed with no further weather interruptions.

Day 1 Results

Manly 2 def Canberra City 0, Hornsby RSL 2 def Wollongong Uni. 1 (RSL goals by Marc Sluiter 2), Mallacoota Utd 3 def Mallacoota Colts 0, Hornsby RSL 2 def Canberra City 1 (RSL goals by Matt Smith, Marcus Phillips), Wollongong Uni. 1 drew Mallacoota Utd 1, Manly 6 def Mallacoota Colts 0, Canberra City 0, Manly 2 def Hornsby RSL 0, Wollongong Uni. 6 def Mallacoota Colts 0.

Day 2 Results

Mallacoota Utd 3 def Hornsby RSL 0, Manly 0 drew

Wollongong Uni 0, Canberra City 5 def Mallacoota Colts 0, Mallacoota Utd 0 drew Manly 0, Hornsby RSL 7 def Mallacoota Colts 1 (RSL goals by Marc Sluiter 3, Trevor Simmons 2 and Marcus Phillips 2, Canberra City 1 drew Wollongong Uni 1.

Final Results

Hornsby RSL def Mallacoota Utd 1 goal, 5 corners (RSL goalscorer Marcus Phillips) to 1 goal, 0 corners and Manly 0 goals, 3 corners def Wollongong Uni 0 goals, 2 corners.

The final then pitted Manly as defending Champions against Hornsby RSL. Hornsby went into the final reasonably confident but not having beaten Manly in the last six years Manly would have been slight favourites. The game was played in an excellent spirit with both teams working from



The Cup belongs to Hornsby RSL Soccer Club.

end to end creating chances.

Mid way through the first half the RSL midfield strung together some good passes together found Jack Galvin Waight flying down the right wing to deliver a pin point low cross to the far post where Trevor Simmons calmly smashed the ball into the net. Manly came back trying to equalise but the Hornsby defence held tight to hang on to the lead at half time. Manly came out hard in the second half but Hornsby got back into the game by keeping possession and working from side to side. With about 10 mins to go a Hornsby attacking raid resulted in a corner. Brenton Gurney stepped up to take the corner and from the kick put the ball into the net for Hornsby's second goal.

The 2-0 scoreline was defended for the rest of the game and resulted in Hornsby's first win in the tour-

namment for 23 years and its first win over Manly for 6 years. The hoodoo was finally broken.

Hornsby's win was a squad effort with all members playing a vital part.

The squad was: Mick Da Silva (Captain), Brenton Gurney, Adam Mazurek, Matt Roozendaal, Tony Fonti, Rob Hooker, Tim Butler, Tim Fairlie, Luke Seage, Marc Phillips, Jack Galvin Waight, Stuart Millington, Marc Sluiter, Trevor Simmons, Daniel Coote, Denis Dempsey, Matt Smith and Manager — Roy Ashpole.

Congratulations to Tournament organiser, Marcus Hunziker and his team together with all the sponsors for their continued support and help to make the Mallacoota Cup successful year after year.

MR CHARLES YENDLE

Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association

Charles began his involvement with Granville when his sons began playing with a local club in the 1960's. Charles saw the problem with referee's numbers and decided to pitch in and lend a helping hand.

But for Charles that wasn't enough, and over the next few years he quickly upgraded his qualifications from Class 3 to Class 2 and to Class 1 status.

Charles quickly became involved in appointing referees and in the teaching and examining of referees. He became a mentor and/or friend to many of those whose names were to become household words around both local and federation soccer. People like Geoff Leverton, Fred Batts, Cecil Baldock and Frank Fonti. Geoff and Fred still speak fondly of the many nights spent in Charles's garage doing appointments or examination duties.

Time moved on and Charles retired from active refereeing, his sons stopped playing, but Charles recognizing the need for young (and



State Awards 2002 — Mr C Yendle.

not so young) referees to be instructed continued to participate as both a teacher and inspector.

The Granville Referees recognized Charles's exemplary performance by awarding him a life membership. For many this would have been the signal to take it easy, attend the meetings and occasionally struggle out of bed to watch a game at a nearby park. Not for Charles, who continued to provide his services to young members.

When Charles had heart surgery a few years back, he was ordered to take it easy. Taking it easy for Charles still meant picking up his clipboard, donning his terry towel, hat, and heading off to a park somewhere to ensure some young referee was given instructions. The football association recognized this sterling performance two years ago by awarding him club person of the year.

Charles has retired from work, but not from refereeing duties. Charles remains the branch coach for the Granville Referees, assists 4 to 6 referees every Saturday, attends examination and referees' management meetings and reviews the referee's evaluation sheets produced by the coaches & managers.

In addition to local duties, Charles also serves as a district inspector, inspecting visiting referees for their upgrades to higher levels. When called upon Charles has assisted by attending Football association executive meetings, or sitting on judiciary sub-committee meetings.

In a game where the average referee's "life" is 3 to 5 years, Charles's 35 years of quiet unassuming service is several refereeing lifetimes. It is impossible to estimate the impact this quiet, well spoken, and gentle man has had upon hundreds of refer-

ees. Never one to involve himself in sporting politics, and never one to be heard uttering an unkind word about another, Charles remains one of the

most liked, even loved personalities, of the Granville Association, and is a worthy recipient of the State Award.

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ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Inter at the moment seem to be the team to beat. However, that has been the case several times in recent seasons, including last year, but when it matters most they are not there.

Last year they were the pacesetters for most of the season but were cruelly beaten at the post in the last round by Juventus. Their last league title win was back in 1989.

The whole Ronaldo saga after the World Cup doesn't seem to have affected them much. Hector Cuper's team is doing fine without him.

The strike force of Christian Vieri, Alvaro Recoba and Hernan Crespo, is absolutely world class. All three are also key players for their respective countries.

Cuper hasn't been afraid to start all three in games. While individually they have had off days, on the whole they are combining very well.

Vieri though does seem a little more moody than usual. It appears that he is often frustrated at opponents, the referee and even at times his own teammates.

Inter are not necessarily playing the most attractive football but they are certainly getting the desired results in the Serie A.

□□□□

Sven Goran Eriksson has been mentioned as a possible Italian coach. The Italian FA though has decided for now to stick with Giovanni Trapattoni.

Eriksson of course has extensive coaching experience in Italy with Fiorentina, Roma and Lazio. It is with Lazio that he won his only league title in 2000.

The 54 year old Swede has a four year contract with the English FA and should be at the helm of England at the 2006 World Cup.

However, in recent weeks in England, with Adam Crozier resigning from the English FA and Steve McClaren quitting as Eriksson's assistant, rumours have been rife that he was next to go.

According to some Italian papers Eriksson has apparently said that coaching Italy would be "his greatest challenge."

It is most unlikely that he will ever coach the Azzurri but a return to Serie A football could not be ruled out. Should England not win the 2006 World Cup he will be branded, rightly or wrongly, as a failure.

This possible failure tag and his age are the two factors that will most likely go against him.

□□□□

Roma has a talented young striker called Antonio Cassano. The 20 year old, who moved to Roma from Bari two years ago, is considered by many to be the next big thing.

However, his poor attitude and oversized ego could well prevent him from furthering his career. Last week he didn't bother showing up to training and no explanation was offered.

Roma coach Fabio Capello was none too pleased and told the media so. The young man with the difficult character later apologised but taking on Capello is probably his biggest mistake.

Capello is without peer in coaching circles. His record with AC Milan, Real Madrid and Roma speaks for itself. The one thing though that Capello demands is discipline.

As a player who played for Juventus, AC Milan and Italy, he was an elegant midfielder and extremely disciplined. He once said that he never questioned a coach's decision during his playing career. He expects the same of his players today.

Cassano's problem is that he feels he deserves more playing time. He recently scored in the Champions League against Genk of Belgium but is still basically considered only as a substitute by Capello.

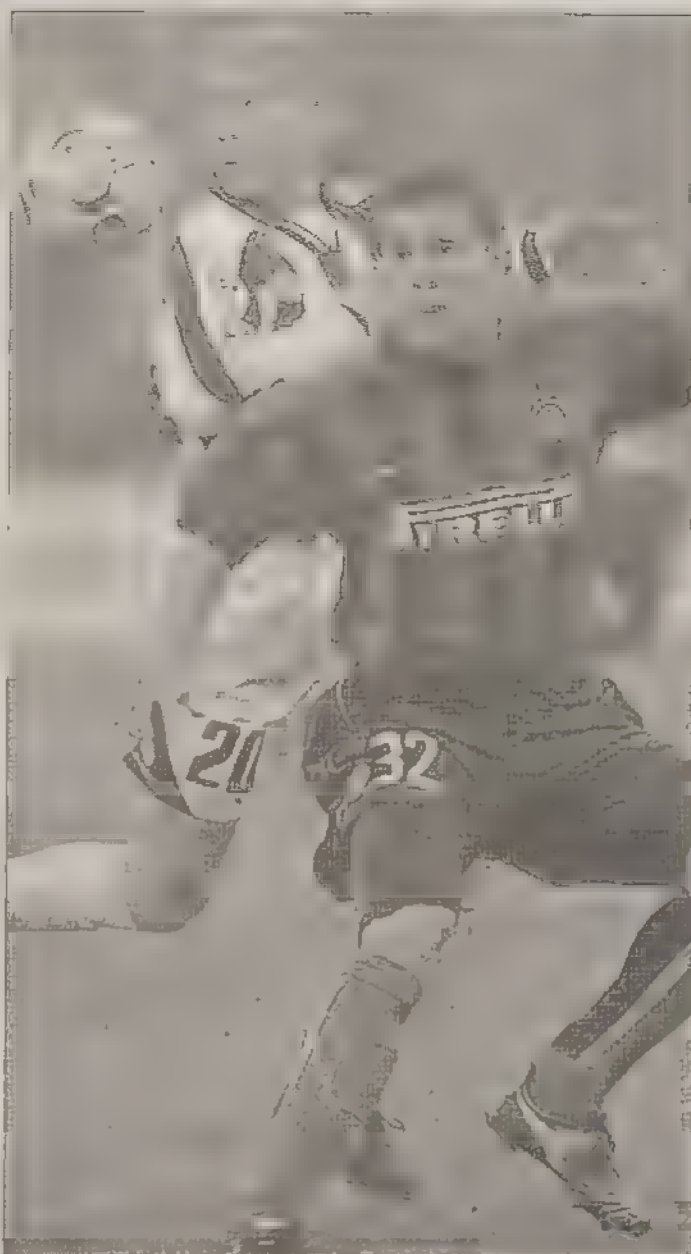
The problem for Cassano is that he is competing against Francesco Totti, Gabriel Batistuta, Vincenzo Montella and Marco Di Vaio.

Totti is outstanding and is a certain starter. That leaves the other four to fight it out for the two remaining positions as strikers.

Batistuta has been regularly on the bench and used as an impact player by Capello late in games. The Argentine veteran was arguably the greatest striker of his era and if he can sit on the bench, then so too can Cassano.

Cassano isn't new to tantrums. Five times he has been sent home from the Italian Under 21 team camp by coach Claudio Gentile. That in itself is incredible. Rumours also have it that Totti no longer speaks to him.

Cassano will probably find that his next tantrum at Roma will be his last. Capello has given him a second chance but he can rest assured that, unlike Gentile, he will certainly get no where near five.



Nestor Sensini of Udinese challenges Inter's Christian Vieri.

INTER MILAN 1 UDINESE 2

League leaders Inter Milan suffered their first domestic loss of the season as Udinese recorded a 2-1 victory at the San Siro.

After seven wins and a draw from their opening eight matches took Hector Cuper's team clear at the top, they looked set to record an eighth victory when Christian Vieri headed them into a third-minute lead.

But a stunning 30-yard drive from Martin Jorgensen drew Udinese level after 25 minutes and Roberto Muzzi gave Udinese the points when he struck in the 55th minute.

The ever-dangerous frontman collected the ball centrally and was forced to go to the right of two defenders to get nearer goal.

But he was not put off and hit a fierce low shot from



Juve players celebrate their victory over AC Milan.

just outside the penalty area, which took a nick off Inter's Francesco Coco before nestling in the bottom right corner of Francesco Toldo's goal.

The win moves Udinese two spots up to tenth.

It was hardly the result Cuper would have wanted, coming just three days before Inter take on Ajax in the Champions League.

Depending on Lyon's result against Rosenborg, Inter may need to take something from their potentially tricky trip to Amsterdam to qualify for the second round.

ROMA 1

PIACENZA 1

AS Roma led at lowly Piacenza but had to settle for a share of the spoils after a 1-1 draw.

Italian striker Antonio Cassano gave the Giallorossi a 25th minute advantage but the home side drew level through former Juventus midfielder Enzo Maresca in the 73rd minute.

The points keeps Roma in sixth place with 15 points, seven adrift of leaders Inter Milan.

Piacenza are in the bottom half with just eight points from nine starts.

JUVENTUS 2 AC MILAN 1

Juventus are up to second in Serie A as they beat AC Milan to

defend the division's last unbeaten record.

Marco Di Vaio opened the scoring on eight minutes, and Lilian Thuram doubled Juventus's lead 16 minutes later. Andrea Pirlo pulled a goal back with a 32nd-minute penalty, but Juventus held on and are now just a point behind leaders Inter, who lost for the first time this season at home to Udinese on Saturday.

LAZIO 0 PARMA 0

Lazio missed the chance to go third as they were held to a scoreless draw at home by Parma.

Lazio were made to rue a 26th-minute Sinisa Mihajlovic penalty miss, as the Yugoslavian defender hit the post after an Adriano handball, and the Rome club, whose shares were suspended on Friday with the club suffering financial problems, were unable to break Parma's defence down after Fabio Liverani was sent off.

BOLOGNA 1 COMO 0

Bologna stayed in contention in the upper reaches of the table with a narrow 1-0 win against winless Como.

Giuseppe Signori scored a 74th-minute penalty to keep the visitors second bottom of the table, level on four points with Atalanta.

BRESCIA 0 EMPOLI 2

Empoli secured their fourth away win of the campaign by beating Brescia 2-0. Antonio Busce and Antonio Di Natale struck in the final eleven minutes, as Brescia's former European Player of the Year Roberto Baggio missed a penalty and Antonio Filippini was sent off.

REGGINA 0

MODENA 1

Modena stayed in the top half after winning 1-0 at Reggina thanks to substitute Rubens Pasino's 77th-minute goal.

PERUGIA 2

TORINO 1

Perugia kept Torino in the bottom four with a 2-1 victory, Zé Maria hitting the decisive goal from the spot four minutes from the end.

CHIEVO 4

ATALANTA 1

Chievo Verona took fourth place from Lazio with a 4-1 win against bottom side Atalanta. Luigi Sala gave Atalanta a 40th-minute lead with a header, but Federico Cossato levelled before the break.

Daniele Franceschini, Simone Perrotta and Cossato scored after half time to give Chievo a fourth straight win, with Cristiano Doni sent off for Atalanta in the final seconds.

Chievo coach Luigi Del Neri said after the game: "In the first half Atalanta created us many problems and we suffered a lot from that. Then we improved thanks to a determined recovery."

FIXTURES

Saturday 16 November

Bologna v Perugia
Roma v Inter Milan

Sunday 17 November

AC Milan v Parma
Atalanta v Brescia
Como v Lazio
Empoli v Reggina
Modena v Piacenza
Udinese v Chievo
Torino v Juventus

Inter Milan 1 - 2 Udinese; Piacenza 1 - 1 AS Roma; Bologna 1 - 0 Como; Brescia 0 - 2 Empoli; Chievo 4 - 1 Atalanta; Lazio 0 - 0 Parma; Perugia 2 - 1 Torino; Reggina 0 - 1 Modena; Juventus 2 - 1 AC Milan.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internaz. Milan	9	7	0	2	9	9	22
2 Juventus	9	6	2	1	4	5	21
3 Milan	9	6	1	2	7	7	19
4 Chievo	9	4	0	5	15	10	18
5 Lazio	9	5	1	3	15	7	18
6 Roma	9	4	3	2	14	14	15
7 Bologna	9	4	3	2	0	7	15
8 Modena	9	5	3	1	10	12	15
9 Parma	9	3	4	2	14	12	13
10 Empoli	9	4	1	4	14	13	13
11 Udinese	9	3	2	4	6	10	11
12 Perugia	9	3	2	4	11	17	11
13 Brescia	9	2	2	5	13	13	8
14 Piacenza	9	2	2	5	8	13	8
15 Torino	9	2	0	7	6	17	6
16 Reggina	9	1	2	6	6	15	5
17 Como	9	0	4	5	5	13	4
18 Atalanta	9	1	1	7	8	20	4

WORLD

Spanish Primera Liga

Ronaldo ended his goal drought as Real Madrid got back to winning ways in the Primera Liga.

The injury-jinxed Brazilian, who cost £29.8million from Inter Milan in a potentially risky summer deal, had not scored in six matches since getting a double on his Real debut.

But he struck their opener in a 3-2 win at Madrid rivals Rayo Vallecano with a neat finish from a Luis Figo pass.

Vallecano rallied well though and, after goals from Jorge Azkottia, Julio Alvarez and Real's Roberto Carlos, the match

looked to be heading for a 2-2 outcome.

But Figo had the last word, curling in a marvellous free-kick to end a run of four matches without a win for Real in the Primera Liga and lift them to third place.

The league continues to be topped by Real Sociedad who were held to a 1-1 draw by Deportivo La Coruna in San Sebastian.

Home side Sociedad went ahead through a Darko Kovacevic header in the 27th minute, his seventh goal in eight league games this season. But former Real Mallorca striker Albert Luque scored his first league goal for Deportivo to earn them

a point - even though he appeared offside when he fired home in the 39th minute.

Last season's champions Valencia had to work hard to get a point in the Mestalla against a highly-skilled Real Betis outfit.

It was away side Betis who took the lead through Marcos Dos Santos Assuncao, but a flying header from Pablo Aimar earned Valencia a share of the spoils and they stay second tonight - three points behind Sociedad. Barcelona made hard work of beating Villarreal at the Nou Camp, having to wait until the 74th minute before Juan Roman Riquelme scored the game's only goal with a penalty. Sergio Ballesteros was adjudged to have fouled Javier Saviola, perhaps harshly, and Riquelme made no mistake from the spot to send Barca climbing four places to fourth. Dario Silva got the only goal of the game as Malaga beat Osasuna to end a run of two league defeats in a row.

His side went fifth, but Osasuna remain 19th in the 20-team league with just five points from their opening nine matches.

Mallorca secured a club record sixth consecutive Primera Division win on Sunday to move into the top three behind Real Sociedad and Valencia.

Walter Pandiani scored twice as Mallorca beat Deportivo Alaves 3-1, and, having lost their first three games this season, they are now just three points behind leaders Real, held 1-1 by Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday. Pandiani, who returned to form with a hat-trick against Real Valladolid last week, opened the scoring on the half-hour with a header and then made the second for Ariel Ibagaza on 67 minutes.

Uruguayan international Pandiani made it 3-0 with a 78th-minute penalty after himself being brought down by Alaves goalkeeper Richard Dutreel, and although the visitors themselves missed a spot kick soon after through Rubén Navarro, substitute Adrian Ilie was able to score an added-time consolation.

Celta de Vigo ensured they again ended the weekend in fourth after a narrow 1-0 win against Espanyol, now firmly in the bottom three despite their revived form last month. José Ignacio scored in the 17th minute to keep Celta above Real Madrid and Barcelona, who both won yesterday.

Sevilla secured only their second victory of the season to move up into 13th place with a 1-0 win against Real Racing Club Santander. Francisco Casquero was on target 32 minutes in to secure the three points against a side who have been unable to reproduce their form in beating Madrid and Deportivo consistently this season.

Valladolid end the weekend in the top half after a 3-1 win against struggling Recreativo de Huelva, who only secured their first victory of the season last Sunday. Nicolas Olivera, Valentín Pachón and Mario

scored to give the visitors the points, although Loren did pull-a goal back for Recreativo. Athletic Bilbao striker Ismael Urzaiz scored a second half hat-trick but this was still not enough to lift his side to victory at Atletico Madrid.

The hosts had a hat-trick hero of their own with former AC Milan forward Jose Mari emulating Urzaiz's goalscoring feat.

Atletico went ahead on 23 minutes but the game did not reach great heights until after the interval. Urzaiz levelled three minutes after the restart and put Bilbao ahead on 51 minutes with his second. Jose Mari grabbed his brace on 75 minutes before Urzaiz got his third for the night to give Bilbao the lead with just seven minutes left.

However, the excitement was not yet done as Jose Mari snatched an equaliser in stoppage time.

Malaga 1 - 0 Osasuna; Rayo Vallecano 2 - 3 Real Madrid; Real Sociedad 1 - 1 Deportivo La Coruna; Barcelona 1 - 0 Villarreal; Valencia 1 - 1 Real Betis; Celta de Vigo 1 - 0 Espanyol; Mallorca 3 - 1 Deportivo Alaves; Recreativo Huelva 1 - 3 Valladolid; Sevilla 1 - 0 Racing Santander; Atletico Madrid 3 - 3 Athletic Bilbao.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Real	9	6	3	0	21	13	21
2. Valencia	9	5	3	1	18	6	18
3. Madrid	9	4	4	1	17	10	16
4. Barcelona	9	4	3	2	17	11	15
5. Malaga	9	4	3	2	17	16	15
6. Mallorca	8	5	0	3	11	10	15
7. Betis	9	3	5	1	17	10	14
8. Celta	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
9. Deportivo	9	4	2	3	12	13	14
10. Atlético	8	2	5	1	12	8	11
11. Racing	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
12. Valladolid	8	3	1	4	8	11	10
13. Rayo	9	2	2	5	12	17	8
14. Alavés	8	2	2	4	10	18	8
15. Athletic	8	2	2	4	9	17	8
16. Villarreal	9	1	4	4	9	11	7
17. Sevilla	8	1	4	3	6	8	7
18. Espanyol	8	2	1	5	7	13	7
19. Recreativo	8	1	2	5	6	15	5
20. Osasuna	9	1	2	6	10	18	5

FIXTURES

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Athletic Bilbao v Rayo Vallecano
CD Alaves v Recreativo Huelva
D Coruna v Barcelona
Espanyol v Atletico Madrid
Osasuna v Valencia
Racing Santander v Mallorca
Real Betis v Celta Vigo
Real Madrid v Real Sociedad
Valladolid v Malaga
Villarreal v Sevilla



Adrian Ilie (left) of Deportivo Alaves battles with Mallorca's Miguel Angel Nadal.

German Bundesliga

Bayern Munich returned to the winners' circle with a battling victory over champions Dortmund while high-flying 1860 Munich, Werder Bremen and Schalke all lost.

Bayern Munich gave under-fire coach Ottmar Hitzfeld a much needed boost with a 2-1 victory over his former club Borussia Dortmund at the Olympic Stadium. Hitzfeld has been under pressure after a miserable run of results in Europe, where they will finish bottom of their Champions League first phase group, and then a disappointing loss at Werder Bremen last week.

But his players responded against the Bundesliga champions, recovering from Marcio Amoroso's seventh-minute opener to move five points clear at the summit.

The game's turning point came five minutes before half-time when Torsten Frings was sent off for Matthias Sammer's team. Roque Santa Cruz levelled on 62 minutes and Claudio Pizarro put Bayern ahead four minutes later.

Dortmund's frustration boiled over shortly afterwards as German keeper Jens Lehmann was dismissed for foul and abusive language.

Bayern's city rivals 1860 Munich missed the chance to go second after a 1-0 defeat at Hamburg. Bernardo Romeo settled a tight affair with a 29th minute strike, pushing them five points away from the drop zone.

Werder Bremen also wasted the opportunity to move ahead of Dortmund after Stefan Effenberg inspired hosts Wolfsburg to a 3-1 triumph.

Martin Petrov put the hosts ahead after 28 minutes and Bremen's hopes were damaged further on the stroke of half-time when Greek international Angelos Charisteas was sent-off.

Robson Ponte doubled Wolfsburg's lead midway through the second half and Effenberg sealed the points six minutes remaining after a goal France international Johan Micoud gave the visitors brief hope.

A late Bernd Schneider penalty earned Bayer Leverkusen a single-goal victory against Schalke. Home goalkeeper Frank Rost brought down

Thomas Brdaric for the spot kick, and received his marching orders for his troubles. Frank Neubarth sent on substitute goalkeeper Oliver Reck, with Sven Vermant coming off, but he could do nothing to block Schneider's spot-kick.

Joan Virel Ganea blasted a hat-trick, including a last-minute winner, to earn in-form Stuttgart a 3-2 triumph over VfL Bochum.

The home side had to come from behind twice to take the victory which takes their tally to 13 points from the last five games.

First Thomas Christiansen then Sebastian Schindzielorz put Bochum ahead but Virel Ganea twice levelled for Felix Magath's side before netting the winner. Kaiserslautern's miserable season continued with a 1-0 home defeat to fellow strugglers Hannover.

Former German international Fredi Bobic scored the only goal of the game five minutes before half-time to give the visitors their fourth win of the season. Kaiserslautern remain second bottom, seven points adrift of the safety zone after

this defeat and 1-0 wins for rivals Bayer Leverkusen and Hamburg.

Nürnberg's Martin Driller struck the only goal of the game after 55 minutes to give his side the points at Arminia Bielefeld.

The win moves the visitors up to 10th and above their opponents, who drop to 15th after their second home defeat of the season. Borussia Mönchengladbach bounced back to form in the German 1. Bundesliga with a 3-0 victory against bottom club FC Energie Cottbus, while Hertha BSC Berlin overcame FC Hansa Rostock.

Mönchengladbach, who had lost six of their last seven competitive matches, moved out of the relegation zone thanks to first-half goals from Daniel Felgenhauer, Ivo Ulich and Joris van Hout. The five-times German champions, who dominated German football in the 1970s but have been struggling since, made amends for a 5-0 beating

by FC Schalke 04 on Wednesday. Cottbus, who have just one victory from 12 games, had midfielder Ronny Thielemann sent off for a second booking in the 72nd minute, and have now gone 701 minutes without scoring a goal.

In the other Sunday game, Hertha moved up to sixth with a 3-1 victory over easterners Hansa. Goals from Belgium midfielder Bart Goor and Brazilian striker Alex Alves put the capital side 2-0 up after ten minutes. Togolese striker Bachirou Salou reduced the arrears on 15 minutes for Rostock, who dropped to 15th in the 18-strong league, before defender Arne Friedrich sealed Hertha's win in the 58th minute. Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich failed to bounce back from their Champions League exit as they slumped to a disappointing 2-0 defeat at high-flying Werder Bremen on Sunday.

A goal in each half was enough for Werder

Arminia Bielefeld 0 - 1 Nürnberg; Bayern Munich 2 - 1 Borussia Dortmund; Hamburger SV 1 - 0 Munich 1860; Kaiserslautern 0 - 1 Hannover; Schalke 0 - 1 Bayer Leverkusen; Stuttgart 3 - 2 Bochum; Wolfsburg 3 - 1 Werder Bremen; Hertha BSC 3 - 1 Hansa Rostock; Mönchengladbach 3 - 0 Energie Cottbus.

Team	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern	12	8	2	2	28	14	26
2. Dortmund	12	5	6	1	18	9	21
3. Stuttgart	12	5	5	2	20	14	20
4. 1860 München	12	6	2	4	18	14	20
5. Bremen	12	6	2	4	22	22	20
6. Hertha	12	5	4	3	15	12	19
7. Schalke	12	5	4	3	14	11	19
8. Wolfsburg	12	6	1	5	15	15	19
9. Bochum	11	5	2	4	25	19	17
10. Nürnberg	12	5	1	6	15	18	16
11. Hamburg	12	5	1	6	13	18	16
12. Leverkusen	12	4	3	5	15	18	15
13. Hannover	12	4	3	5	22	26	15
14. Mönchengladbach	12	4	2	6	14	10	14
15. Hansa	12	4	2	6	14	13	14
16. Arminia	12	4	2	6	12	20	14
17. Kaiserslautern	11	1	4	6	9	15	7
18. Energie	12	1	2	9	5	26	5

FIXTURES

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Bayer Leverkusen v Borussia M'gladbach
Bayern Munich v Wolfsburg
Borussia Dortmund v 1860 Munich
Cottbus v Arminia Bielefeld
Hannover 96 v Hertha Berlin
Hansa Rostock v VfB Stuttgart
Nürnberg v Hamburg

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

VfL Bochum v Schalke
Werder Bremen v FC Kaiserslautern



Borussia Mönchengladbach's Lawrence Aido (left) holds off Vragel da Silva (centre) and Christian Becek of Energie Cottbus.



GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

AEK Athens stayed top of the Hellenic National League despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Olympiakos Piraeus in a hard-fought top-of-the-table encounter on matchday seven, when there were six other stalemates with identical results.

On a muddy ground after the downpours in Athens on Friday and Saturday, Predrag Djordjevic fired past goalkeeper Dionyssis Hiotis to open the scoring but an inch-perfect assist from Thodoris Zagorakis set up Demis Nikolaidis' leveller.

Iraklis, in third, drew 1-1 with PAOK Thessaloniki, taking the lead with Marcin Mieczel's fifth goal of the season on 37 minutes - but substi-

tute Nikos Froussos hit an 82nd-minute equaliser.

Panathinaikos collected their fourth consecutive win thanks to a 1-0 defeat of second-placed Panionios, with the only goal of the game a header from Nikos Lyberopoulos on 15 minutes.

Proodeftiki - along with Olympiakos the only unbeaten club in the league - demolished Akrotiris 5-1. Petr Tchvetanov gave the visitors the lead but Rolan Zaimi,

Paraskevas Andralas, Giorgos Pouloupoulos, Kostas Mangos and Alexandros Tatsis ensured the early goal was immaterial.

Panahaiki picked up their first goal this season in a 1-1 draw with Xanthi, grabbing the leveller through Emanuele

Morini after Kostas Ilija had opened the scoring and securing the point when Serjan Klavcic saved an Abderahim Ouakili penalty late on.

Nikos Anastopoulos' first game as coach of PAS Giannina against Egaleo was yet another of the draws.

Further stalemates were fought out by Ionikos and OFI Crete as well as Kallithea and Aris Thessaloniki.



PAO's Angelos Basinas attempts one of his many long-range efforts against Panionios in last week's fixture that ended in the Green's favour, one-nil.

AEK Athens 1 - 1 Olympiakos Piraeus; Aris Saloniki 1 - 1 Kallithea; Giannina 1 - 1 Egaleo Athens; Proodeftiki 5 - 1 Akrotiris; Xanthi Skoda 1 - 1 Panahaiki Patras; Ionikos Nikea 1 - 1 OFI Crete; Panathinaikos 1 - 0 Panionios; Iraklis Saloniki 1 - 1 PAOK Saloniki.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Iraklis	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
2. AEK	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
3. Olympiakos	7	3	4	0	10	4	13
4. Panionios	7	4	1	2	9	3	13
5. Proodeftiki	7	3	4	0	9	3	13
6. PAOK	7	3	3	1	15	10	12
7. Panathinaikos	7	4	0	3	9	8	12
8. Aris	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
9. Egaleo	7	2	4	1	7	4	10
10. Ionikos	7	2	3	2	5	6	9
11. Xanthi	7	1	5	1	5	5	8
12. OFI	7	1	3	3	5	9	6
13. Kallithea	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
14. Akrotiris	7	1	1	5	5	15	4
15. Panahaiki	7	0	1	6	1	14	1
16. Giannina	7	1	1	5	7	12	-8

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Club Brugge are in pole position for the Jupiler League title after their crushing 4-0 victory over Genk.

Genk, who needed the win to maintain their title credentials, were no match for Trond Sollied's men who took the lead as early as the 12th minute when Gert Verheyen's cross found Alin Stoica to slot past goalkeeper Jan Moons.

Verheyen made it 2-0 on 35 when he powered forward to head Peter Van der Heyden's cross home.

The visitors, without the suspended Wesley Sonck, fell further behind as Stoica laid the ball off to Olivier De Cock to blast home 10 minutes after the restart.

Timmy Simons completed the scoring with a 71st-minute penal-

ty after Akran Roumani had handled inside the area.

Young Genk striker Kevin Vanderbergh then missed two golden opportunities in the dying minutes to add to the frustration.

Lierse failed to close the gap on leaders Club Brugge when they were held to a 1-1 draw by 10-man Mons.

Former Coventry City striker Cedric Roussel headed top-flight newcomers Mons into the lead in the 36th minute before Jean-Pierre La Placa received his marching orders for a crunching tackle on Jonas De Roeck.

Arouna Kone levelled the scores on 50 with a powerful drive but Lierse could not find a winner as the visitors defended in numbers and the result leaves them in third place. In the day's

other game, Standard Liege ran out 3-1 winners at Beveren to claim their third win of the season.

Ole Martin Aarst converted Ali Lukunku's cross from close range to put Standard ahead in the 15th minute before adding another a minute before the interval. Lukunku headed Aarst's cross

home on 61 before Constant Kaiper pulled one back on 84.



Club Brugge's Gert Verheyen played an instrumental role in his side's convincing four-nil victory over Genk.

Sint-Truiden 3 - 1 Anderlecht; Club Brugge 4 - 0 Racing Genk; Germinal Beerschot 0 - 2 Mouscron; La Louviere 0 - 1 AA Gent; Lokeren 4 - 1 Charleroi; Lommel 0 - 2 Antwerp; Westerlo 2 - 0 Mechelen; Beveren 1 - 3 Standard Liege; Lierse 1 - 1 Mons-Bergen.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Brugge	11	10	1	0	30	8	31
2. Lokeren	12	8	3	1	28	16	27
3. Lierse	12	8	3	1	21	9	27
4. Sint-Truiden	11	7	3	1	34	16	24
5. Genk	12	6	4	2	27	18	22
6. Anderlecht	11	6	2	3	25	16	20
7. Mouscron	11	5	3	3	26	22	18
8. Antwerp	12	4	3	5	20	23	15
9. Mons	12	4	2	6	17	17	14
10. AA Gent	12	4	2	6	19	22	14
11. Germinal Beerschot	12	4	2	6	21	26	14
12. La Louviere	12	3	4	5	12	12	13
13. Standard	12	3	3	6	15	21	12
14. Lommel	12	3	2	7	12	21	11
15. Beveren	12	3	1	8	11	24	10
16. Westerlo	12	3	1	8	9	25	10
17. Mechelen	12	2	3	7	13	26	9
18. Charleroi	12	0	4	8	13	31	4

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

Mateja Kezman and Mark van Bommel fired PSV Eindhoven back to the top of the Eredivisie on goal difference with a 3-1 win against Heerenveen.

After the Amsterdamers managed only a 1-1 draw with Roda JC on Friday night, PSV knew victory would take them to top spot.

Petter Hansson stunned the Philips Stadion crowd by putting Heerenveen ahead in the 51st minute, but Kezman struck in the 63rd and 78th minutes to turn the contest on its head. Mark van Bommel finished off the scoring by adding PSV's third in the 86th minute. Vitesse Arnhem conquered fortress Willem II, ending the home team's unbeaten run on their own territory. After three wins and two draws, the team from Tilburg were distinctly second best against Vitesse who ran out 3-1 winners. Evgeniy Levtsenko put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot after 21 minutes. And although Willem II got back level 10 minutes later through Chris Janssens, Marcin Zeman's 37th-minute goal restored the away side's advantage. Vitesse scored their third in the last minute as Willem II's hopes of an equaliser proved forlorn.

Bottom club Groningen gained only their second point of the season with a hard-fought 0-0 draw at NAC Breda.

In a largely forgettable contest, Groningen goalkeeper Roy Beukenkamp pulled off the most crucial save of the game in the first half. Beukenkamp made an excellent reflex stop from Kevin Bobson's close-range effort. Orlando Engelaar also saw his effort sail wide while Glen Salmon's effort at the other end was pushed over the bar. Struggling De Graafschap were denied a vital win as Excelsior snatched a draw with a last-minute equaliser. The home side looked set to double their points tally for the season after Tim Bakens put them in front on his return from suspension. But Mounir El Hamdaoui prevented Peter Bosz's side from claiming their second win in four days with a last-gasp goal to keep the visitors in mid-table.

AZ Alkmaar pulled away from the relegation zone with a crucial 2-0 victory over fellow strugglers RBC Roosendaal.

The home side opened the scoring in controversial fashion after 19 minutes with Barry van Galen accepting Kenneth Perez's pass before slotting home.

The linesman had raised his flag for off-

side but the referee waved play on and Van Galen made no mistake when through on goal. The home faithful were made to wait until the 68th minute for the match to be made safe however.

Van Galen's free-kick rebounded off the wall for Michael Buskermolen to volley home the second from the edge of the area.

Feyenoord are four points behind in third after a 2-0 Sunday win against Zwolle. Shinji Ono gave Feyenoord the lead on 65 minutes with a penalty after Tomasz Rzata was fouled, and Mariano Bombarda's header three minutes later confirmed the result. In Sunday's other matches, NEC Nijmegen lost ground with a 2-1 loss at FC Twente, while FC Utrecht are sixth after beating RKC Waalwijk 1-0 with a goal from Paulus Roija, despite playing the last 40 minutes with ten men.

Elsewhere on Saturday, new AZ Alkmaar coach Co Adriaanse saw his side beat RBC Roosendaal 2-0. SBV Vitesse moved up to seventh with a 3-1 victory against Willem II. FC Groningen picked up only their second point of the season with a 0-0 draw against NAC Breda, and SC Excelsior were held 1-1 by struggling De Graafschap.



Feyenoord's Japanese star Shinji Ono was on the score-sheet in their win over FC Zwolle last weekend.

Roda Kerkrade 1 - 1 Ajax Amsterdam; De Graafschap 1 - 1 Excelsior Rotterdam; NAC Breda 0 - 0 FC Groningen; PSV Eindhoven 3 - 1 SC Heerenveen; Willem II Tilburg 1 - 3 Vitesse Arnhem; AZ Alkmaar 2 - 0 RBC Roosendaal; Feyenoord Rotterdam 2 - 0 FC Zwolle; NEC Nijmegen 1 - 2 FC Twente Enschede; RKC Waalwijk 0 - 1 FC Utrecht.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV	11	8	3	0	28	4	27
2. Ajax	11	8	3	0	28	12	27
3. Feyenoord	11	7	2	2	28	12	23
4. Roda	11	5	5	1	23	13	20
5. NAC	11	3	7	1	14	8	16
6. Utrecht	10	4	4	2	12	9	16
7. Vitesse	11	4	3	4	14	11	15
8. Willem II	11	4	3	4	17	18	15
9. NEC	11	4	3	4	15	17	15
10. Waalwijk	11	4	3	4	14	19	15
11. Excelsior	11	3	4	4	15	17	13
12. Twente	11	3	4	4	13	19	13
13. Alkmaar	11	4	1	6	18	28	13
14. Zwolle	10	3	2	5	13	18	11
15. Roosendaal	10	2	3	5	13	18	9
16. Heerenveen	11	2	3	6	14	21	9
17. De Graafschap	11	1	1	9	8	29	4
18. Groningen	10	0	2	8	7	21	2

Scottish Premier League

There were no goals and very little in the way of constructive play at Tynecastle as Hearts and Aberdeen fought out a lacklustre 0-0 draw on Saturday.

Livingston were the most convincing winners of the day as they swept Partick aside 3-0 with a devastating second-half display.

A minute after the re-start the home side took the lead following a blunder by Thistle goalkeeper Kenny Arthur.

He came off his line to block a Lee Makel cross into the box but he was caught out of position by Eugene Dadi who bulleted the header past the Partick goalkeeper.

Livi doubled their advantage three minutes later when Makel's shot was parried by Arthur, only for Marvin Andrews to pounce on the rebound and tap home from a couple of yards.

David Bingham rounded off the scoring as he latched on to a long kick from Javier Sanchez Broto before firing past the Thistle goalkeeper from 16 yards after 58 minutes.

In the day's other game, an injury-time goal by Kilmarnock striker Kris Boyd gave the visitors a 1-0 win over Motherwell and hammered another nail into the Fir Park side's coffin.

With the game heading for a draw, Boyd stepped up to drill a low shot from 25 yards which gave Motherwell keeper Francois Debourdeau no chance.

Rangers maintained their 100 percent home record and stayed a point clear at the top of the SPL with a 2-1 Ibrox win over Hibernian on Sunday.

The first half had been a cavalcade of opportunities for the home side, with Michael Mols and Shota Arveladze both converting one and each having another ruled out.

But once Tom McManus pulled one back in the 45th minute, the leaders were forced to dig deep to hold on, especially when key personnel were forced off through injury.

Rangers had also missed a string of chances when Mols broke the deadlock on 11 minutes, moving goal-side of his marker to meet a cross from Fernando Ricksen in emphatic fashion. Ricksen was again the supplier when it became 2-0 on 35 minutes, bursting into the box, and when Nick Colgan could only parry, the ball bobbed to Arveladze at the far post and the Georgian, with his back to goal, instinctively flicked the ball over the line.

Reigning champions Celtic kept pace with the leaders by beating Dundee United 2-0 at Tannadice. John Hartson strengthened his case to face Blackburn Rovers with his 11th goal of the season - but Stilian Petrov could be in the dock with Martin O'Neill. Chris Sutton hit the net late on as Paul Hegarty was denied in his first win since being appointed Dundee United manager, while the champions kept the pressure on Rangers at the top of the table.

But the Welsh international striker revealed this week he has expressed his concerns over limited first-team chances to the Celtic boss and admitted he could be forced to leave. But in his third consecutive game - again at the expense of Paul Lambert - Hartson bagged his 11th goal in six starts to make it almost impossible for O'Neill to leave him out for the trip south.

The Celtic boss once again chose to play Sutton in midfield, but while Hartson continued to battle for his place, midfielder Petrov could have gone into his bad books. The Bulgarian international was curiously left out of the 16 after he was quoted on Sunday morning saying he is refusing to sign a new deal and would be looking to quit Parkhead for better money.

Petrov looked glum as he sat in the box before kick-off and the timing could not have been worse ahead of Thursday's second part of the thrilling "Battle of Britain" saga in the UEFA Cup.

The visitors started well despite the absence of Petrov and Hartson put them in front in the 14th minute. Alan Thompson showed good awareness to find Steve Guppy in acres of space on the left flank with a quick free-kick after being fouled by Jamie McCunn.

The English winger then swung in another inviting cross into the box and Hartson arrived at the perfect moment to head past Gallacher from six yards.

The Bhoys made the points safe with a second goal two minutes from time

Hearts 0 - 0 Aberdeen; Livingston 3 - 0 Partick Thistle; Motherwell 0 - 1 Kilmarnock; Dundee United 0 - 2 Celtic; Rangers 2 - 1 Hibernian.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	14	12	2	0	43	8	38
2. Celtic	14	12	1	1	42	8	37
3. Hearts	14	5	6	3	23	18	21
4. Dunfermline	13	6	2	5	23	26	20
5. Hibernian	14	6	0	8	19	23	18
6. Dundee	13	4	5	4	13	18	17
7. Aberdeen	14	4	4	6	13	24	16
8. Kilmarnock	14	4	4	6	14	27	16
9. Livingston	14	4	3	7	21	21	15
10. Partick	14	2	6	6	11	22	12
11. Dundee United	14	2	4	8	11	25	10
12. Motherwell	14	2	3	9	14	27	9

French Ligue 1

Paris St Germain wasted the chance to go top of Ligue 1 for a second successive weekend after a 1-1 home draw with Sochaux. PSG, who last week missed out on reaching the summit after a shock 3-1 loss at Sedan, took the lead through Bartholomew Ogbeche after 65 minutes.

But a late equaliser from Jeremy Mathieu with five minutes remaining gave the visitors a share of the spoils.

Portuguese striker Pauleta scored both goals as Bordeaux proved too strong for Rennes and climbed into the top half of Ligue 1.



Paris Saint-Germain Alex Nyarko rises above Sochaux's Michael Pagis.

Pauleta's 49th Ligue 1 career goal came after 31 minutes on Saturday afternoon and was a free-kick which gave Petr Cech little chance.

More renowned as a poacher than a footballing artist, he got back to doing what he does best and brought up his half-century when notching the second goal after 76 minutes.

Rennes had Philippe Delave sent off in the 88th minute for kicking out at Bruno Basto.

Montpellier won for the first time in six games with a 2-0 win over Sedan at Parc de Lescure.

Habib Bamogo and a penalty from Marc-Eric Guei early in the second half proved enough to see off the visitors.

The home side ended the match with 10 men after midfielder Valery Mezague was sent off for a second

yellow card following a dangerous tackle on substitute Sophiane Baghdad. Strasbourg defeated Lens 2-0 to maintain their unbeaten home record. Yannick Fischer opened the scoring two minutes before the break, and a Christian Bassila strike nine minutes from time sealed the points. Nicolas Gousse's double helped fire Troyes to a second home win of the campaign, 3-0 in a bad-tempered contest with Bastia.

Gousse fired the home side in front from the penalty spot after 23 minutes before doubling his side's advantage 18 minutes from time.

Mamadou Niang put the gloss on the result with a third goal deep into stoppage time.

Both teams ended the game with 10 men after Cyril Jeunechamp of Bastia and Benjamin Nivet of Troyes saw red in separate incidents.

Jeunechamp walked for serious foul play, while Nivet followed less than 60 seconds later after collecting a second booking.

Marseille were left frustrated after a night which promised much at Guingamp ended goalless at the Stade Municipal du Roudourou.

Neither side could find the killer ball in the final third to make the breakthrough. Alain Perrin's men almost stole the points late on when Cyril Chapuis shaved the post with a diving header.

Nantes turned the formbook on its head as they beat Lille 1-0 at the Stade Grimonprez-Jooris.

Lille went into the match in search of their fifth successive home win, while Nantes had managed three wins from their opening 13 matches. Stephane Ziani won it five minutes into the second half.

Sylvain Armand's corner fell first to Nicolas Savinaud, with his volley sending the ball to Ziani, who swept it home past Gregory Wimbee who had no chance.

Ajaccio 1 - 0 Auxerre; Le Havre 1 - 2 Lyon; Nice 1 - 0 Monaco; Bordeaux 2 - 0 Rennes; Guingamp 0 - 0 Marseille; Lille 0 - 1 Nantes; Montpellier 2 - 0 Sedan; Paris S.G. 1 - 1 Sochaux; Strasbourg 2 - 0 Lens; Troyes 3 - 0 Bastia.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Nice	14	7	5	2	19	7	26
2. Lyon	14	7	4	3	27	16	25
3. PSG	14	6	6	2	23	12	24
4. Auxerre	14	7	3	4	18	14	24
5. Marseille	14	7	3	4	16	15	24
6. Sochaux	14	6	5	3	17	11	23
7. Strasbourg	14	6	4	4	19	21	22
8. Lens	14	5	6	3	13	10	21
9. Monaco	14	5	5	4	19	14	20
10. Bordeaux	14	5	5	4	15	12	20
11. Guingamp	14	5	4	5	19	18	19
12. Lille	14	4	5	5	11	14	17
13. Ajaccio	14	4	5	5	10	13	17
14. Bastia	14	5	2	7	14	20	17
15. Nantes	14	4	4	6	12	16	16
16. Sedan	14	4	4	6	17	22	16
17. Montpellier	14	3	4	7	11	18	13
18. Le Havre	14	2	6	6	11	20	12
19. Troyes	14	2	5	7	11	18	11
20. Rennes	14	2	3	9	9	20	9

Alain's Corner



Alain Barataud

Liverpool in serious trouble!!!

For the past three weeks the French media have stated that Paris Saint Germain will take control of

the league, but it seems that every time they have the opportunity to do so, they can't pull it off.

The first time was against Niza, the current leader of French Ligue 1; the second time, last week in Sedan where they lost and now at home last Sunday drawing with Sochaux.

They knew, after seeing Niza win on Saturday against Monaco, that all they had to do was win against Sochaux and they would take top spot, but they blew it. Paris hates to be under pressure and when Ronaldinho is out, the team is obviously different. They seem to miss him, his inspiration and his spirit.

Their coach, the great Luis Fernandez, appears at a loss when Ronnie is not here. Ronaldinho, please come back as soon as you can, we need you to keep the French League interesting as it still stands undecided after thirteen rounds with none of the teams making a dramatic difference keeping Niza on top.

The past few years have seen the order at the top of the league peppered with teams change positions repeatedly. Its refreshing to note that today, the big wealthy clubs are once again monopolizing the top ten lists and the bigger cities and their teams are represented well this time around in the League except for Toulouse, Metz and Saint-Etienne who are struggling in League Two.

Niza, the fourth biggest city of France and smallest budget of the league, seems to be upsetting the three richer teams Lyon, Paris and Marseill. All will try to set right their position, especially Lyon with their top quality squad.

Teams like Auxerre, Lens, Monaco and Bordeaux are all very good quality teams, will try to stay close to the top of the league as well. Their problem is they need to be more consistent and should look to sign some new players come January when the transfer market reopens.

Every year there are a couple of rogue teams that slip into the top five creating a few headaches and this year is no exception with teams, Strasbourg and Sochaux. This weekend, the latest results have confirmed this as Strasbourg beat Lens two-nil and Sochaux took one point in Paris.

Excitement is brewing for the last round of the first stage of the Champions League on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In France it could be a good week if Lyon beats Rosenborg to qualify and Lens wins in Munich while at the same time La Corona loses against AC Milan.

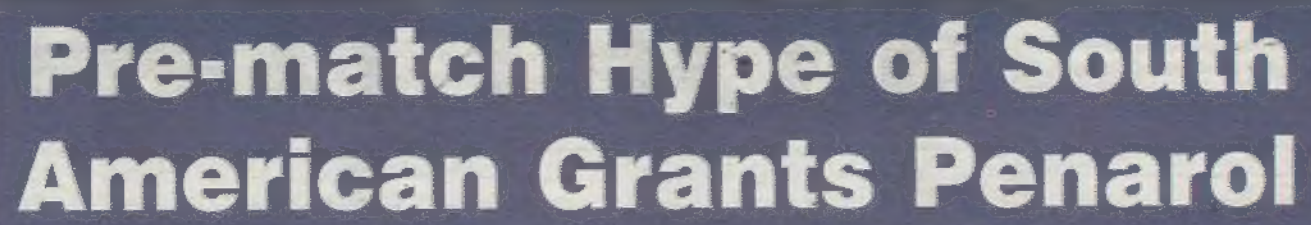
Auxerre is already finished but a win against Dortmund will give them a ticket in the UEFA Cup. They'll be crossing their fingers that Arsenal can beat PSV Eindhoven in the meantime.

Game of week will see Liverpool watching their guard as they face home team Basel, in Switzerland.

Hopefully, back in the game after a recent knee surgery, Basel team member and Soccerro, Scott Chipperfield said, "They need to play for a win. We just have to control them, score once and we will be back in winter for the second round of the Champion's League."

Basel, unbeaten on home ground, St Jacobs Stadium, along with their forty thousand supporters, should promise hell to Liverpool! The reds know it's not going to be an easy game against the Swiss team who drew in Liverpool a few weeks ago.

See you next week to talk about all the thrilling news and excitement of the ongoing Champions League.



**Photos by
Carlos Furtado**

